

West Virginia Writers' Project
RESEARCH IDENTIFICATION REPORT

Subject Natural Setting Pocahontas County Date Jan 25th 1941
Chapter 3 Part 1 Sec D

Research Worker Roscoe W. Brown Date Research Taken Jan 11th Jan 25th

Typist Roscoe W. Brown Date Typed Jan 22 & 23

Source Geological Survey County History Date Filed
Pocahontas Times of the old Issues.
The public Records & &

History of the Virginia Militia and the Annals of Bath County



when the pioneers were settling up the Deer Creek valley, or Warwicks Creek as it was then called, found the Deer to be so numerous that they^{were} considered a pest to the farmers, who had to farm on a small scale, only having small fields and patches planted, and the Deer would some times destroy a whole crop. There is a tradition that Jacob Runbaugh who lived upon the land now owned by Monroe Beard, did not have feed enough to winter his cow, and fed her on Deer meat, (It has since been conceded that a cow will eat dried venison ♀)

And from the fact that the Deer were so numerous in the the country it was called Deer Creek. And to the Indians it was called by names that have have long been forgotten, The Indians called it Ta-rin-ka, Wak-pa-dan. meaning Deer- Creek. and hence the name Deer Creek.

As we study into the names given to Deer Creek proper above the confluence of the North Fork and Deer Creek, and that of the Rosin Run the branch that flows into the North Fork South of Greenbank, it appears that the names have been applied improperly; and criss-crossed. Some of the older folks claim that Rosin Run was called Deer Creek: and the North Fork its North Branch, and and Deer Creek proper was called Back Creek or Muddy Creek, which seems to be very reasonable, and some of the old land records give their local description in this particular respect.

But however the names as they exist at the present time, have gone down in the history of all the land records, and are so fixed that it will be a matter of impossibility to change the names back to their original meaning.

Don Linton
ch 3

West Virginia Writers' Project
RESEARCH IDENTIFICATION REPORT

Subject NATURAL SETTING Pocahontas County Date Feb 22nd 1941
Research Worker Roscoe W. Brown Date Research Taken Feb 12 to Feb 21st
Typist Roscoe W. Brown Date Typed Feb 21st 1940
Source Public Records mostly Date Filed _____
Notes from Geological Surveys.
Data from old land Grants &&
From writing s from the Pocahontas Times .



GUM BRANCH—The Gum Branch is a small stream near and North of the Durmore Mineral Springs; this small Branch gives rise in what is locally known as Charleys Ridge, in the Lime Stone Section of the Hill-Neighborhood East of Durmore. It has an entire length of 3.5 miles, with a total fall of 625 feet with a rate of 178.5 feet per mile; and has a drainage basin area of 2.10 square miles; This Branch known as the Gum Spring Branch has many small intermittent streams, which are all situated in a Limestone Section and the land is all very productive, and some of the very best farms are situated in its water shed and its valley.

The Gum Branch received its name by the fact that that an old pioneer by the name of Gum lived for a time at an ice cold Spring which is near the Gum-Spring school House, now discontinued by the Board of Education.

The pioneer William Warwick knowing the tactics of the Indians, knew that the Indian would be on the job bright and early the next morning, and in order to give vent to his ^{feeling} over the death of his ^{friend}, left the fort in the night, and concealed on the bank of Deer Creek, (This point ^{is} just East of the Steel Bridge on the North side of the Creek opposite the site of the Old Fort, ~~site~~, and not far from the pioneer Warwicks cabin,) about dawn the slender form of an Indian was seen emerging from the gloom; no doubt, the same Indian emboldened by his success, and maddened ^{by} for the thirst for glory, was making an effort to get another scalp for his wigwam. Almost at the same instant, a shot from Warwicks Rifle rang out and the daring warrior went to his happy hunting ground; The wildest excitement agitation, and discussion in the Fort prevailed when one singular and pathetic cry, and the report of the rifle was heard; presently the pioneer came to the Fort and told what he had done. Then pandemonium soon entered the minds of the Indians that were skulking around the Fort, and as they ^{had} done on other occasions, congregated on the high hill across the North Fork Creek, (Just back of what is now the old John Warwick house) and sailed arrows into the Fort (This would make a long shot for a Winchester Rifle).

The tradition is, that at this skirmish with the Indians, when the settlers were in the Fort, some spies or scouts were sent out to reconnoiter, and look for fresh Indian sign, and came in contact with a band of Indians who were apparently passing through, and doing no harm, but the settlers took no chances and fired on the Indians, by which a skirmish ensued, and one Indian was wounded and was taken by his comrades, to a place on the Hospital Run, now not far from the town of Arbovale, where he lingered along and died. And from this instance is where we get the name of "Hospital Run". His grave that was found which is now on the land of O.G. Arbogast, purports the fact that he was buried in Indian style, and therefore must have been buried by the Indians; There goes with the tradition that there was found at his camping place, Poultices made of sassafras leaves, said to be used by Indians for gunshot wounds.

The venerable Peter Warwick claimed that the place where the crippled Indian was crippled was north of the White Oak Hill, while some other older folks claim it was between the town of Greenbank and the home of Monroe Beards , however the two angles come completely together.

The Hospital Run has the honor of having the first log Church that was erected in the Eastern part of Pocahontas County ; the site of which is in the old part of the Arbovale Cemetery This old log Church was erected when Indian scares ~~were~~ were still fresh in the minds of the people and it was located on a raise of ground between two springs on the Hospital Run in order to give a good view of the surrounding country which overlooked the old Indian Hospital , on the Hospital Run. '

Thomas Jarvis who owned the Eastern part of the Hospital Run , by a land-Grant bearing date of June 1780 , had his cabin ~~at~~ aspring in what is now a field on the lands of O.G. Arbogast , went in search for his cow that had wandered off in the woodland; when he came back the Indians had rifled his house, had taken his feather bed tick, but emptied the feathers out in the floor; taken all his blankets , kettles , butcher knives, and his winters supply of bear meat. Many years afterwards when Adam Arbogast who became owner of the land in clearing a field of new land plowed out an old Kettle and a butcher knife which was supposed to be The property of Thomas Jarvis taken by the ~~M~~ Indians.

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West Virginia Writers' Project

RESEARCH IDENTIFICATION REPORT

NATURAL SETTING POCAHONTAS COUNTY

Subject (Chapter three Part 1) Sec (D) Date June 14th 1941.

Research Worker Roscoe W. Brown.

Date Research Taken May 31st to June 14th 1941

Typist Roscoe W. Brown

Date Typed June 10th, 11th, and 14th, 1941.

Pocahontas Times. History of Augusta Co, Va.

WVa Geological Survey.

Source Historical Sketches of Pocahontas Date Filed
County .



Roscoe W Brown

June 14th 1941.

Knapps Creek ;² (Continued,) It appears that there is,nt any person who can tell for certain who Knapps Creek was named for, ~~on which it was so named Knapp.~~

There has been some very interesting traditions about the naming of Knapps-Creek ; There is printed the story Concerning Knapps Creek to the effect that it derived its name from an old trapper or hunter, or pioneer explorer, by the name Knapp Gregory, correctly spelled Nap Gregory; believed to be the person of solitary excentric habits and subject to lunacy, and who when laboring under the influence of this disease, would ramble a considerable distance in the neighboring wilderness and be absent from the settlement for weeks at a time; On one of these wanderings he came on some of the waters of the Greenbrier River, ; Surprised to ^{see} the waters flowing in a westwardly direction, on his return to Winchester ^{va} he made known the fact ; and that the country abounded very much with different kind of Game; in consequence of this information two men recently from New England visited ^{the} Country and took up their residence on the Greenbrier River at the Mouth of Knapps Creek,

The names of these two men are given in the Sketches of U.S. History by Mrs Anna Royal as "Carver, and Sewell;" These two men says Mrs Royal, lived in a Cave for several years but at length they disagreed on the score of religion and then occupied different camps, they took care however not to stay far from each other their camps being in sight.

Sewell used to relate that he and his friend used to sit up all night without sleep, with their guns cocked, ready to fire at each other ; And what could that be for ? Because we could,nt agree ; Only two of you and could,nt agree-- What did you quarrel about, Why about Re- la-gin one of them it seems was a Presbyterian and the other an Episcopalian ;:- This name "Carver" was the the person of Jacob Maffin as has been written,;

~~There are many of the citizens of the Knapps Creek Valley claim that the Knapps Creek was so named from the fact that a man by the name of Caleb Knapp~~

The following note is from Prices Historical sketches of Pocahontas County,

"The Site of Nap Gregory, s cabin is near the public road oposite Peter L. Cleeks residence, two miles above Driscol. Traces of the fire place and the dimensions off the Cabin yet visible. Early in the spring the grass appears here more luxuriantly than else where and earlier, for the spot seems to be especially fertile, an often observed characteristic of places where where buildings disappear by gradual decay.

Nap Gregory is reported to have disappeared from the Creek and suddenly and mysterriously. When last seen he was in pursuit of a deer near the Lockridge fording. It was supposed by dome that he might have been drowned, while others suspect that he may have been killed and robbed by some suspicious looking characters that had been seen about the same time , by scouts from Augusta Coufy . "

There are many citizens of the Knapps Creek Valley claim that the Knapps - Creek was so named by the fact that a man by the name of Caleb Knapp lived on the Creek , and the site of his cabin or home place is the same identical spot that is claimed to ^{be} the home place of the above mentioned Nap Gregory, this place is near the gate, at the State Road, on Ward Cleeks Farm. It has been handed down through many generations of the relationship of of Caleb Knapp, that Knapps Creek was named after their Grand Father Caleb Knapp. (There has been two Caleb Knapps in Pocahontas and Greenbrier Counties Caleb Senior and Caleb Junior) If Kaapps Creek was named after a Caleb Knapp, it was the Caleb Knapp Jr, who may have been one that lived on Knapps Creek in stead of Caleb Jr, The name of Knapps Creek ante- ^{be} dates the name of Caleb Knapp Jr , so it would have to ^{be} named after Cale Knapp Sr, who lived in Greenbrier County , and paid taxes as early as 1787.

As we study the named of the Branches of ~~Knapps/Creek~~ Pocahontas County we find that Knapps Creek id spelled more differently than any other branch in Pocahontas County . After the formation of Bath County Va , there is recorded in the land Grant Books of Bath County, 29 Land Grants or Patents , issued by the Commonwealth of Virginia, to land Grantees situate on Knappa Creek in what is now Pocahontas County; In giving the local description of the Land Grants situate on the Knappe Creek; 22 of the Grants spell it K-n-a-p Creek

And 7 of the 29 spell it N-a-p-s Creek . The dates of the Grants range from 1795 to 1822.

After the formation of Pocahontas County , there are recorded in the Recorded in the Land Grant books of Pocahontas County , 44 Land Grants or Patents Issued by the Commonwealth of Virginia, to land Grantees situate on the Knapps-Creek and 15 of the Grants spell it K-n-a-p- Creek , and 29 spell it N-a-p-s Creek The dates of the Grants range from 1822 to 1860.

Of the 73 land Grants Issued on the waters of Knapps Creek 37 spell it with a " K " and 36 spell it with an " N " The vacant lands on the Knapps Creek include were all taken up prior the Civil War. This does not include the Grants issued issued while under the regime of Augusta County, which was then referred to as being on Ewings Creek . While under the regime of Bath County a Grant was issued to Andrew Reid bearing date of 1794 , and gives the local description as being on the waters of Ewings Run ; and to Archibald Stewart bearing date of 1800 on the waters of Ewings Creek , which appears to be about the last of the Grants that mention Ewings Creek.

The first Survey made in Pocahontas County was made by General ^{Andrew} Lewis . bearing date of October the 11th 1751 for 480 Acres situated on both sides of the Greenbrier River and states being at the mouth of Ewing Creek. And no doubt ^{that} but this the first writting of Ewing Creek . This land Grant of Andrew Lewis is found recorded in Greenbrier Grant Book No 1 at Page 3.

The old land surveyors would constantly refer to Knapps Creek " as once called Ewings Creek " It appears that the old surveyors who made the surveys for for the pioneer settlers on the Knapps Creek , were of a different opinion as to the spelling of the " Knapp? As a matter of fact it was shifted from " Ewings " Creek to Knapps Creek in honor of a man by the name of Nap Gregory or a man by the name of Caleb Knapp. There appears to be a misunderstanding among the early settlers , and the settlers of the Knapps Creek Valley , even at the present time as to which of the two should have the honor of being the name-sake of the Knapps-Creek; It appears that neither of them owned land on the Knapps Creek .

There are many very interesting letters written in regard to the name of Knapps Creek ; and the following letters are hereby submitted for their consideration in regard to ^{the} name of Knapps Creek, which has been a question of argument.

In November 1940^{28th}, the following was written in the Pocahontas Times .to -
Mr Cal Price , and his reply.

Dear Mr Price:

Some writers state that Knapps Creek was named for Knapp Gregory, an early settler in that locality , while others claim that it was named for a man named Knapp who came into that section prior to 1749.

I would like to know if you have any information on the subject as to which might be correct . If it was named ~~from~~ from a Mr, Knapp, do you know the ~~Christian~~ Christian name? There was a Caleb Knapp in Greenbrier County , as early as 1789, but I do not ^{know} his parentage.

Yours very truly.

Wilma Beard Harper.

Elkins WVa.

The reply to my cousin Wilma Beard Harper is, that Knapps Creek ~~was~~ was named for Naphtaleem Gregory; You will find his name in the Chalkley Records of Augusta County. If I remember right, it will be in the 1760,s

In the Earliest records _ Col. John Stuart in 1751- the name is Ewings Creek. In the Lewis survey of that date at Marlinton, a line calls for passing ~~o~~ over the Ewing House , some where between the low place ~~be~~ on Buckley Mountain, near Stillwell to a point not far from the residence of Z.S.Smith Jr,

Later records refer to the Creek by the name of Naps; later records have it Knapps Creek .

Some time about a century ago the family of Caleb Knapp moved to Pocahontas County from Greenbrier County . I fix the time by the fact that one of the daughters of Caleb Knapp ~~was~~ Mrs Ellen Buzzard , was born in Greenbrier county, she died a few years since at the advanced age of 103 years.

Naphtaleem Gregory had his hunters camp on Naps Creek. I have always had the impression his camp was near the present site of the Westminster Church.

The tradition that Naphtaleem Gregory was killed by white outlaws dressed up

He was in camp at the time, and his dogs were out chasing a bear. The robbers dragged the body some distance from the camp to hide it in a sink hole. Before the body was disposed of, the pack of dogs returned from the chase, took up the trail, and attacked the robbers so fiercely that they had to kill the dogs in self defense.

How the particulars of the crime ever leaked out was never explained to me. Maybe one of the robbers told about it in later years.

What I do know is I have been assured by ancient colored people, that in the full of the hunters moon those who are born with a cowl, can hear Gregorys dogs running a trail in full cry, to end in howls and growls at the sink hole. "

The following letter is from the Hon A.E Ewing, of Grand Haven Michigan.
printed in the Pochontas Times Dec 12th 1940.

Dear Mr, Price:

I was interested in Wilma Beard Harper,s inquiry about the godfather of Knapps Creek, and your reply in The Times of November 28th.

Evidently some geographer of pioneer days became confused in his nomenclature. Just likely Napthalem Gregory was only known as " Nap " I submit that " Naptha" would have been more illuminating. The geographer who initiated the name Knapp, either ignored the Nap Gregory,s right to the honor, or accorded the honor to Caleb Knapp or some othe Knapp.

As you say Caleb Knapp is listed as an old timer of Greenbrier and Pocahontas. I do not know the geneology of the Knapps of Western Virginia, bu I know there was an Abraham Knapp who married Rachel Cherington, daughter of William and Margaret Hank-Cherington. Not positive, but I believe they were Rockingham County people, They moved into Greenbrier County, just when I do not know. They had a son, Moses Knapp who was born in 1812 and who married Eliza Hank, daughter of Caleb Hank. Caleb Hank was a Rockinghamer and moved to Greenbrier county, now Monroe with his parents about 1789 and to Gallia county Ohio, in 1846, where he settled among his Cherington kinsman.

William C. Gaines, 75, a prosperous farmer of Lathrope, Missouri, is a grand son

of said Moses Knapp. I do not know if any of the above named Knapps ever lived on Knapps (Nap) Creek.

Pardon my family pride for suggesting that Ewings Creek ought to be made the official designation of the much named stream. The earliest official mention ever made of it was Ewings Creek " The man who gave it that name was James Ewing a Scotch Irishman born about 1715 , and who came to Western Virginia about 1736. He had a farm on Jackson river near the influx of Muddy Creek Run only a few miles from the divide and the head waters of the stream that bore his name as late as 1770 when he sold his claim to Moses Moore for two steel traps and two pounds sterling, according to historian Price. It is believed that his family, two sons, John and William, and three daughters, were born on the Jackson River farm , and that they moved to their new home across the the divide shortly after 1760 and resided on the stream which bore his name until about 1770 when he sold out to Moses Moore and moved on down to the Swago farm lands now known as the McClintic farm . I picture my great grand father James Ewing as not only as a farmer , but much of a hunter and trapper, and that he chose the flats of said creek as a home for his boys and girls while he brought home deers, bears, fish and fur.

As long as there is a question ^{about the} names of "Knapp" and "Nap", why not return to the original name and call it Ewing Creek in honor of a sturdy old pioneer, who did his bit toward the early settlement of present Pocahontas County

A.E.Ewing.

Grand Haven , Michagan.

CHAPTER THREE- NATURAL SETTING (Pochontas County)

Part (1) Sec (D)

July 26th 1941.
Roscoe W. Brown.
Roscoe W. Brown

The Mountain between the Knapps Creek, and Thomas Creek , and South of Sittlingtons Creek has been Locally Known as Michael Mountain , This of mountain is crossed by Sittlingtons Creek north of Michael Mountain in a rather low Gap at the conjunction of Buzards Creek , and again by the deep gorge of Knapps Creek at Minnehaha Springs , which terminates Browns Mountain on the South.

On the north end of Beaver Lick Mountain the White Medina quartzite rises in a vertical cliff to 3,662 feet , while continuation of the same rock marks the Southern end of Michael Mountain with an elevation of 3,652 feet .

The Michael Mountain Fire Tower , is situated on the southern end of the Mountain which is in the bounds of the Seneca State Forest, This Fire Tower was built by the State , of West Va in the year of 1923.

The Michael Mountain is very rough, and rugged, and is a haunt for the Deer of the Seneca Forest which cross the Michael and move on to the Allegheny Mountain .

The Michael Mountain bears the name of Michael Daugherty, who was one of Knapps Creeks very early settlers , who came to that region from Ireland in the year of 1770, he was one of the very best citizens , of the pioneers of Pocahontas County . He was a great hunter and sportsman , he would pride himself in the extraordinary feat, of walking in on a Bear with a hunting knife or a club , while the dogs were attracting the attention of the bear in the front . At one time his dogs had cornered a bear some where on the Michael Mountain this event appears to be in his old days, not being very agile, he undertook to wade in upon the bear with his hunting knife, as the hunter struck his knife home, the big bear struck him with his paw, and crippled him in such a manner, that he died from the wounds. And it was thereafter called Michaels Mountain .

Buzards Creek , and Daugherty Ridge was named in honor of Michael Daugherty,

Natural Setting CHAPTER THREE (Pocahontas County)

Part 1)

Sec-D -)

Roscoe W. Brown.

Dec - 28th 1940.

TACKETS FORK - is a branch of the North Fork Creek , and gives rise near the top of the Allegheny Mountain at a low place called the "Pole Bars" and has a length of 2.6 miles with a fall of 1085 feet , with a fall of 293.2 feet per mile; and has an area of drainage basin of 2.33 square miles. The head of Tackets Fork is still covered with the virgin Forest of about 1000 Acres of hard wood , (No timber of any kind had been cut in this tract of the Virgin forest which was left by the Lumber Company that owned the land while the Lumber Companies were in operation in Pocahontas County. the same tract of Timber extends across Little Ridge a spur of the Allegheny Mountain , and through the head of Sutton Run, and is the only tract of the virgin forest that has not ^{been} cut or culled out by the Lumber Companies , it is now owned by the U.S.- F.S being in the bounds of the Monongahela National Forest ; In years to come the U.S. - F.S. may build a truck roads to the head of Tackets Fork and the Sutton Run for the purpose of operating all the merchantable timber in this tract of vacated timber land.)

Tackets Fork received its name from an old pioneer by the name of Tacket. Tacket was an old hunter and made the dressing of hides a specialty. He had a cabin built near the mouth of the Tackets Fork the foundation of which is plain to be seen at the present time., There is a tradition that his name was Christopher Tacket , and that he was killed by the Indians on the Kanawha River while defending a Fort . If this be true it was in the year of 1788 . (As shown by the history Trans-Allegheny Pioneers)

SUTTON RUN - The Sutton Run is a branch of the North Fork Creek and has a length of 2.6 miles, with a fall of 1125 feet, and a fall of 387.2 feet per mile, and a drainage area of 3.17 square miles.

There still remains a part of the Virgin forest in the head of the Sutton Run. The Sutton Run was in the pioneer days ^{was} a noted branch for the large number of Maple trees that were so numerous all along the Run.

The early settlers of the Greenbank neighborhood would move to the Sutton Run during the Maple Sugar season to make their supply of Maple Syrup and Sugar; at the mouth of the Sutton Run, Godlip Hartman had his camp, the next in the Run was Jacob Gillispie, 2nd Beverage, 3rd John Sutton, 4th John Sheets, in Sheets Hollow, 5th James Talman, in the Talman Hollow, 6th William B. Wooddell on Negro Knob.

The pioneers would have the very best Sugar Camps, were made comfortable on Sutton Run would stay at their camps during the season; The Maple Sugar industry was perhaps first started by the pioneer John Sutton who settled in the Hill country in the year of 1797 near Greenbank; he would go each spring to the Sutton Run, to make his supply of Sugar, and along with the other named neighbors, would work with each other in way of hauling wood, and supplies, for their sugar camps,

Those early Sugar makers, on the Sutton Run had many stirring incidents with wolves, panthers, and wild cats; in the spring of the year the varmints would be hungry, and be constantly sneaking around the camps in the nights.

The John Sutton for whom the Run was named was from Westmorland County Virginia, and was acquainted with the Washingtons; his old homestead was on the broad Potomac, he paid a visit to his old home, and his many friends seemed astonished when he told them he had seen the the head spring of the Potomac and had drank from its source.

William and Esq. Hugh McLaughlin bought about 1600 acres from Andrew Mathews, originally the Leint. Warwick survey. This land takes in all of the McLaughlin homes including the Brooks, Corbett, and Deputy's farms. William McLaughlin and his brother Esq. Hugh came to Rockahontas in 1829.

John Carpenter another old pioneer settled on Thomas Creek. He divided his land among his four sons, William, John Jr., Hugh and Peter. This land is now the homes of Harry Taylor, James Watson and John Will Carpenter.

Near the mouth of Bitlington Creek the land was owned by Huben Lindsay and Jonathan Potts. The site where the town of Maywood now stands, was originally owned by a colored family by the name of Diggs. They sold to Andrew Matliff, who sold to George May. Same was purchased by the Warren Lumber Co. and used for a lumber yard and manufacturing town.

Thorny Creek was first settled by Martin Dilley, from Maryland of Quaker descent, in 1820. He located where his son Andrew lived; he being the father of Hanson and Amos Dilley, who resided on the old homestead. Rev. James Wanless one of the original settlers of Thorny Creek settled sometime during the 20's, at his death leaving his estate to his nephew John F. Wanless.

Robert Dunlap McCutchan, January 11th, 1825, married Elizabeth Lockridge and settled on Thomas Creek. While they were not the first pioneers of this creek, they came soon after the organization of the county, virtually settled in the woods and built their home which was noted far and near for its cheer and lavish hospitality. Mr. McCutchan purchased 2900 acres of land which was likely a part of the Warwick survey.

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Near the mouth of Sitlington Creek the land was owned by Ruben Lindsay and Jonathan Potts. The site where the town of Maywood now stands, was originally owned by a colored family by the name of Diggs. They sold to Andrew Ratliff, who sold to George May. Same was purchased by the Warren Lumber Co. and used for a lumber yard and manufacturing town.

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William Nottingham of the Glade Hill neighborhood, married Mary Arbogast, daughter of Adam Arbogast, and settled in the woods. This is now one of our best farms, and is owned by Dr. Ligon Price since the death of his parents Mr. and Mrs. J. Calvin Price.

George Craig, father of the late Rev. Newton Craig, was the earliest settler at Glade Hill. A sad tragedy has impressed this fact. The colored nurse became angry when reproved by Mrs. Craig and as an expression of her wrath she threw the baby girl in a large kettle of boiling water. That the mother might forget this horrible scene, they sold the nurse to Col. Paul McNeel of Millsboro, who then owned the Andrew Mathews farm. Isaac Moore bought the Glade Hill farm from Paul McNeel, and E. W. Moore inherited it from his father. This farm has been sold again and divided into three which are owned by Charles Nottingham, James Wilfong and Charles Wilfong.

Benjamin Arbogast, one of the pioneers of the Buzzard Neighborhood built a brick house where Cornelius Buzzard now lives. It was in this home they had all of their preaching services. The young folks, their shoes in hand, walked to Greenbank to church on Sunday. On their return they attended Sunday School and prayer meeting which was conducted in John Suttons barn. When they did all of their shopping at Hot Springs Va. with only a narrow path just wide enough for a pack horse, we do not wonder that they made no more than four trips each year, and that they treasured their shoes.

Huben Buzzard, next neighbor, lived on the farm where ^{Emery} Emory Shinnaberry now lives. Their first church was built of logs just after the Civil War. It has since been replaced by a frame building.

COPIED FROM THE CHURCH RECORDS

* Baxter Presbyterian Church built during the year 1858.

dedicated to the services of Almighty God, on the 27th day of August 1858. Dedication services by Rev. Charles C. M. See. Text 127 Psalm part of the first verse. By order of the Greenbrier Presbytery, this church was organized by John C. Barr on the 21st day of August 1859, with 16 members from Liberty Church at Greenbank as follows: Robert D. McCutchan, and Robert Curry, ruling Elders; Elizabeth Y. McCutchan, Nancy McLaughlin, Samuel McCutchan, Christine Jane McCutchan, Elizabeth S. Curry, Caroline R. Nottingham, Nancy C. McCutchan, Matilda J. Craig, Caroline E. Warwick, John B. McCutchan, Robert L. McCutchan, William A. McCutchan and Elizabeth E. McCutchan. Pastors who have served this church:

Rev. J. C. Barr, Revs. R. P. Kennedy, M. C. Dunlap, A. H. Hamilton, J. H. McCown, Wm T. Price, D. D., E. F. Alexander, R. M. Caldwell, H. W. McLaughlin, R. T. Fultz, Bain, J. S. Kennison, D. H. Mohroe.

The seminary students who have endeared themselves by their faithful service; Revs. J. V. McCall, A.D. Watkins, Lewis Lancaster now a missionary to China, and Marion Sydenstricker now a missionary in Brazil.

This church has one outpost at McLaughlin School House which has added many members to the church, two deacons, and established many christian homes.

The soldiers during the Civil War camped in this nice new church which had been so comfortably furnished and left it a wreck for many years. New paint, paper, carpet and lamps added very much to the restoring it for the 50th anniversary. The past summer (1926) new walls were put in and it was painted inside and out. A new fence has recently been installed, all of which gives the 66 years of

service little to mar the building, and much to encourage the spiritual life. All this with three new Elders and three new Deacons should add much strength to the cause of Christ.

METHODIST CHURCH

under the leadership of Rev. W. H. Ballengee the Methodist Episcopal Church, South was built in 1890 and 1891. It was dedicated in August 1891 by Dr. J. W. Young. Trustees were William H. Cackley, Jacob Taylor, C. R. Moore and E. N. Moore. The Lewisburg District Conference met at the church at that time.

The building of the church and organizing of the society was largely due to the efforts of Rev. Ballengee and his estimable wife. Fourteen pastors have served this church. The present pastor is Rev. L. S. Shires.

The Methodist congregation at Dunmore have done much to express their loyalty; their church building is in first class condition having very recently undergone many repairs, including a good furnace.

The present trustees are, H. M. Moore, E. N. Moore, S. Ed Taylor Winfred McElwee, Guy Campbell. Stewards: H. M. Moore, O. J. Campbell H. W. McQuain, and H. M. Taylor.

The ministers who have gone out from this church are Rev. J. A. Taylor and Rev. K. D. Swecker.

SCHOOLS

The first schools at Dunmore were taught at the Chesley Moore house.

The first school in the McLaughlin neighborhood was taught by Jacob C. McLaughlin near the present location. He was later called to war and killed at the battle of Cedar Creek in 1864. The school house was destroyed and one term of school was taught in an old house on

what is known as the Carr place where Ellett Carpenter now lives. A school building of rough material was erected on the banks between the homes of Lawrence and Russel McLaughlin and school was in session at this point for about twenty years. Some of the teachers who taught here were John R. Warwick, Uriah Bird, S. L. Brown, Preston Cosby, H. M. Lockridge, Albert Nottingham, Charles Cook, and the last school that was taught in this building was by our good neighbor Mrs. Alice Brooks, who also taught the first school in the building that is now in use.

In the Dunmore community we have the following schools; Hillside, Buzzard, Thorny Creek, McLaughlin, Curry and Dunmore. The Dunmore school was started in a one room building in 1880. Miss Emma Warwick was the first teacher. Our town now has a two room building which is located a short distance from where the old building stood.

The whole community has access to a first class high school at Greenbank, which is being well attended.

MINERAL SPRINGS-----TIMBER

Dunmore is noted for its fine mineral springs. The Lithia spring is gaining favor for its purity and the analyses shows this spring to be very similar to the famous Eureka Springs in Arkansas.

The Blue Sulphur, Magnesia and Chlybeat are yet quietly sliding along to the Greenbrier River unappreciated.

The farmers were first attracted to this beautiful valley. We wonder if it was not the beauty of the scenery which compares with that of Switzerland, so says an artist who has recently toured that wonderful country.

The valuable white pine invited many lumbermen. The first railroad brought to Pocahontas county was located on Thomas Creek.

the fat sleek horses bear the honor of the transportation of this railroad from Staunton, Virginia. (This was for the transportation of logs to the mill and did not connect with outside railroads.)

A large portion of the timber was floated out of Sitlington Creek into the Greenbrier River and on to Moncevert. Today the white pine is exhausted and the hardwood is being manufactured here and shipped in lumber via the Greenbrier Division of the C. & O. railway.

The narrow pathways are fast being replaced by good roads and State Highways.

POCAHONTAS COUNTY

FIRST THINGS IN MARLINTON (Continuation of report
for April 3 on the history of Marlinton)

The first court was held under an oak tree on the west side of the river by Squire G. M. Kee. The first lawyer to plead in Marlinton was F. J. Snyder a noted lawyer who lived in Huntersville. He was opposed that day by L. M. McClintic who was just starting on his professional career.

The first term of the Circuit Court was held in 1893. The election to move the county seat from Huntersville to Marlinton was held in the fall of 1891, and a Temporary Court House, and old wooden structure was erected.

The judge was Judge A. N. Campbell of Monroe County. He was a great lawyer over six feet tall, with a heavy black beard, and weighed 315 pounds.

The first sheriff of the county Major William Foage, lived at Marlinton. His house was near Eleventh Street on Camden Avenue. In this house was born James A. Hoffett who in his lifetime was president of the Standard Oil Company of Indiana.

The first postmaster was James Atlee Price.

The first student to go to college from this place was Rev. William T. Price A. B., A. M., D. D.

The first bank was the Bank of Marlinton in 1899.

The first newspaper was the Pocahontas Times, founded in 1882 at Huntersville and moved to Marlinton in 1892.

The first store was opened by J. R. Apperson in a house now occupied as a dwelling. The first business of any kind established in Marlinton was a combined saw mill and carding mill built by James A. Price before the Civil War. It was in charge of James E. A. Gibbs who later became wealthy by the invention of a sewing machine.

One of the first stores was opened by Paul Golden who is still among us, and still in the mercantile business. A sign that he had painted on the store in his early days caused some hilarity among the nations of the world. It read:

Jeanette S. Dilley - continued

"Go no farther to be cheated". The language is loose and capable of two constructions. Anyway it has the right to be grouped under the head of Commercial Candor. (Paul Golden is a Jew who had come here from Europe)

The first school of which there is any official record was a private enterprise. It was opened in a building that stood near Riverside, and it closed after a session or two.

The first teacher's institute was held in 1886 in the Presbyterian Church.

The first church was the Presbyterian on the site of the present church.

The first resident judge of the court was Summers H. Sharp.

The first mayor of the town was Andrew Price.

The first state senator was N. C. McNeil.

The first Presidential Elector was Col. O. H. Kee.

The first delegate to the legislature, L. W. McClintic.

The first member of the county court Dr. Norman R. Price.

The first chief of police, J. A. Sharp.

The first train to arrive was in 1900 when the track was completed to this place.

The first jail delivery was when Armstrong and Cumberland got out of jail at dusk one evening in the nineties. The jail had been completed and it was the modern idea of a strong jail. It was confidently expected that it would hold any body. The county had suffered a series of bold robberies and suspicion had attached to Alex Armstrong, an intelligent colored man, a native of this county, who had removed to an Ohio town. It was thought that he raided this county regularly and that he would come to the nearest railroad station, make a quick trip into the county and return with his booty. This belief was so sure that the authorities waited and watched for his return, and he showed up one winter day traveling incognito with a big, burly, strange negro. B. E. Burns arrested them and they were indicted and convicted of the robbery of Capt. A. W. Edgar, held up at the point of a revolver in his own house at nightfall.

Juanita S. Dilley - continued

They called the jailor in and then got between him and the door and made their escape. A large force of volunteers patrolled the roads all night and in the morning found the negroes about two miles from Marlinton. They had gotten lost and had wandered all night and when captured were about exhausted.

The two oldest buildings still standing are the Toll House and the McLaughlin House.

From - Pocahontas Times - 1923

By - Andrew Price

CORRECTION

In my manuscript on the History of Marlinton mailed in about April 3. I made this statement. "This is the oldest land mark east of the Mississippi".

It should read thus:

(This is the oldest land mark in the Mississippi basin.)

Inventory of Materials

County History E. Va.

Title:

Development of
Pocahontas County

Author:

Bella F Yeager

Date Submitted:

Length:

660

Words

Status:

Editor:

Contents:

Fairly complete account of the
Development of Pocahontas County.
Gives story of purchase of Marlin's Bottom
by Col. John Mc Gray, building of Yeager
over Railroad, first newspaper, bank,
telephone; natural resources.

Source:

Consultant:

Reliability:

File:

Folder:

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Topic: History E. Va.

Title:

Development of
Pocahontas County

Author:

Rella F Yeager

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Contents:

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Mrs. Hella P. Yeager

From notes taken from the
Diary of Captain H. A. Yeager
Hella Yeager

DEVELOPMENT OF POCAHONTAS COUNTY

(The facts concerning the development of this county in the last decade of the nineteenth century which were momentous years for Pocahontas County.)

In December 1890 a great snow fell known as the "winter of the deep snow;" it lay on the ground to a depth of more than three feet. While that deep snow lay on the ground the late Colonel John T. McGraw of Grafton made a visit to this county and purchased the farms known as Marlins Bottom for a town site, now known as Marlinton and the county seat of Pocahontas.

At the time Col. McGraw purchased Marlins Bottom, historic Huntersville was the County seat. The purchase of the town site by Colonel McGraw was the first intimation that county people had of a proposed railway development. Colonel McGraw, who had invested largely in lands elsewhere in the county never ceased trying to interest capitalists in this county and develop it with a railroad. His tireless energy was rewarded. The Greenbrier Railway was built and finished to Marlinton in 1901. The Coal and Iron was built soon after to connect with it at Durbin. In two years Pocahontas County changed from being one of the few counties in the State without a railroad to a county having the greatest railway mileage of any county in the state.

Marlinton began to improve at once. It was incorporated at the April Term of Court, 1900, and held its first election of officers May 5th 1900.

The first newspaper to be published in the county was the Pocahontas Times founded in 1882 at Huntersville and moved to

Mrs. Rella P. Yeager

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Diary of Captain H. A. Yeager
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The first telephone to be built in the county was the Marlinton and Beverly telephone line finished to Marlinton in August 1899. That same year telephone lines were built along all the principal roads of the county.

The first Bank to go into business in the county was the Bank of Marlinton in 1899 and later in the same year, the Pocahontas Bank was opened. For more than a year these Banks carried in large sums of money by special messengers from the nearest express stations from forty five to fifty seven miles distant, over lonely roads. At the time of the railroad development the natural resources had never been touched. Vast areas of iron ore land in the east of the county will some day make Pocahontas County famous as an iron field.

It was discovered in the nineties that Pocahontas County has a vast supply of marble which is equal in value to any marble ever found in the United States and it will some day be ranked high among the marble deposits of the world. It was reported by specialists in marble that the Pocahontas Marble was not good. The best evidence that we have that the report was false is that they could not purchase it. The citizens of Pocahontas County know that they have treasures in Marble Mountain. In this great mountain of marble in Pocahontas County and extending into Randolph County we find white, brown and a beautiful green marble. When the time comes for Pocahontas citizens to develop it, the right kind of capitalists will share in it. Capitalists who will not want

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to take over the great marble area and take the county's resources and money to some distant city. Let the shipping point be here and by the citizens.

The bulk of the timber has been taken out and floated down the Greenbrier River by the St. Lawrence Boom and Manufacturing Company, having removed in this manner a quarter of a billion feet of white pine.

The walnut and cherry have been taken out by rafting on the Greenbrier which was once an important industry, rafting floods in the river being anxiously waited for.

There were a number of skillful pilots who could thread their way with a raft of 50,000 feet of lumber between the rocks of this swift river.

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April 18, 1940

Nelle Y. McLaughlin
Marlinton, W. Va.

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POCAHONTAS COUNTY

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Chapter 4 - Section 2.

It was just one hundred and sixty-five years ago when irate West Virginians paid off a long standing grudge against the Ohio Indians at Point Pleasant. Ever since the close of the French and Indian war, 1763, the Indian Nations who represented being "sold down the river" by the French, continued to pester the frontiersmen by murderous raids and sneaking attacks. In May, 1774, the House of Burgesses authorized the raising of an army and no time was lost in getting down to business. Each county already had a well organized militia system. Gen. Andrew Lewis was given command of the southern wing of the army which included Augusta, Botetourt and Fincastle. Botetourt included the Greenbrier Settlements. The troops were massed at present Lewisburg. Capt. John Stuart commanded a company of thirty-seven men raised from the vicinity of the present Pocahontas County. His sergeants were James Donnally, Chas. O'Hara, and Harriman Skidmore. His musketeers were Daniel Yorkman, Samuel Williams, Wm. O'Hara, Robert O'Hara, James Pauley, Archibald McDowell, Wm. Hogan, Andrew Gardiner, Quavy Lockhart, Samuel Sullivan, Thomas Ferguson, John McCandles, Thomas Gillispie, Henry Lawrence, John Crain, Wm. Dyer, Edward Smith, John Harris, Joseph Currence, William Clendenin, Spencer Cooper, Daniel Taylor, Jos. Day, Jacob Lockhart, Geo. Clendenin, John Burke, Charles Kinnison, William Ewing, John Doherty, John McNeel, and Jos. Campbell. The names of these men should be emblazoned in bronze at Marlinton for they had

POCAHONTAS COUNTY

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and Thomas Ferguson. Thus did Greenbrier Valley men valiantly acquit themselves on this first field of battle for American Independence. Had not Gov. Dunmore stopped them at the Ohio, these Virginians would doubtless either annihilated the Ohio Indians on their own ground or driven them out of the country.

(This was taken from an article written by A. E. Ewing, of Grand Rapids, Michigan and published in the Pocahontas times October, 1939.)

The following is a note written by Calvin Price, Editor of Times:

Naturally, I agree with Mr. Ewing's suggestion of an appropriate bronze marker with the names of our Indian fighters thereon. Probably someday we will stir ourselves and do this belated honor. There is a rub however, and that is the fact that what now embraces Pocahontas was divided between Augusta and Botetourte counties back in the time of the Revolution. Everything north of Swago was considered Augusta and below that creek was considered Botetourte - no line having been surveyed until 1785, eight years after the formation of Greenbrier in 1777, as between Harrison and Greenbrier. While the roster of Captain Stuart's has been preserved, so many of the rosters of Augusta county have been lost. Off hand I would say that our men went out under Capt. George Loffett, and I have never seen a list of his soldiers. He spent most of the summer of 1774 repairing the fort at

POCAHONTAS COUNTY

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Clover Lick, and recruited his men from this section. Off hand, again I can recall some of them: the Warwicks, the Camerons, the Sitlingtons, the Wooddells, the Poages, the Waughs, the Slavens, William Sharp, Moses Moore, the Drinnons, the Bridgers, the Friels, John Johnson, and the Arbogasts. Until the list of our heroes can be made complete, it might be a good idea to defer the idea of the bronze tablet.

POCAHONTAS COUNTY

-4-

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Juanita S. Dilley
Clover Lick, West Virginia

Pocahontas

Chapter 4 Part a. Question 5.

TOWNS SETTLED AND OCCUPATIONS ESTABLISHED FROM 1810 TO 1860

The early settlers of Pocahontas did not settle many towns. Huntersville being the only one of any importance. William Sharp Sr. was the first permanent settler at Huntersville, but John Bradshaw was the one who did the most toward making the town one of importance.

For a number of years previous to the organization of the county in 1821, Huntersville had been a public place as merchants and tradesmen from the east would arrange to meet hunters here and barter goods for the products of the hunt. It was suggested by some that Smithville would be a good name for the place, but John Bradshaw insisted upon the name Huntersville as a special compliment to the hunters who came to his home to meet the tradesmen, including John Harness of Staunton, and to who the place owed so much of its development. It was John Bradshaw, too, who gave enough land, from his vast estate to the county as a place to build all the public buildings so that Huntersville could become the county seat when the county was organized in 1821. A site near Edray had been chosen for the county seat, but after Bradshaw's offer, was changed.

For many years after it became the county seat it retained its importance as the principal trading center for the entire county. The largest stores were usually there. Many people came each month to the courts and once a year the "Big Muster" of the 127th Virginia Regiment brought out all the men between the ages of 18 and 45 for military practice. During the superior courts and the Regimental Muster quite a number of people from the eastern counties would come here to sell hats, saddles, harness, stone ware, tobacco, thirty cent whiskey, and many other things. Therefore, the little town of Huntersville flourished in a big way. It was no unusual thing for its merchants to realize three to

four hundred percent on dry goods and groceries during the period 1822 to 1845.

During the winter 1852 almost all of the business, part of the town was destroyed by fire. During the Civil War it was burned by Federal troops, sent from Beverly, to present it being a Confederate depot for military supplies.

After the war it again grew into an important little town. Flourishing stores were operated by Amos Barlow. Lourey and Son, Lourey and Doyle. Improved methods of farming were adopted and the town took on a more pleasing appearance than ever before.

One of the principals hotels was operated by J. Williams, John Bussard, John Holden, Porterfield Wallace, I. C. Carpenter and E. Campbell in succession, but was burned by federal troops during the Civil War.

Salooning was for many years a flourishing business but in 1848 licenses for salooning was refused by the Court. This of course did away with saloons in the county.

Blacksmithing was also an excellent business as there was much horse shoeing and wagon repairing to be done. Finleys' shop stood near the Cummings Creek road and from three to four hands were employeed. Another shop was operated by Jack Tidd., Later by William Dilley, a very skilled artisan; and G. W. Ginger in succession. (Though Ginger was not there until after the war)

For many years a thriving business was carried on in the harness and saddle business. First by John Haines who employed four or five hands. After by William Fertig, and later by William Grose and Son.

Tailoring was also a thriving business. Messers Campbell, John and James Holden employed several men and were kept busy during early fall and winter or when weddings were in prospects. Weddings also gave the saddles a good trade. It was considered good form for the bride to have a new outfit, horse, saddle and bridle. The groom would not think he had much chance of success if he did not do his courting on a new saddle and bridle made at Huntersville.

FOCALONTAS COUNTY
HISTORY OF KNAPPS CREEK COMMUNITY

(Written by Enid Harper)

In the eastern part of Focalontas County, West Virginia, is Knapps Creek which has its source in the Alleghany Mountains about five miles above Frost. Its two branches unite at Frost from which place it continues to flow along the base of the mountains to the place where it empties into the Greenbrier River, at Marlinton, a distance of almost twenty miles from Frost. The East Fork of the Creek is fed by a stream which comes forth out of the rugged mountain side near Paddys Knob, a peak with an elevation of 4450 feet.

One of the principal tributaries of Knapps Creek of the Minehaha neighborhood which carries with it the waters of Cochrans Creek. At Huntersville Knapps Creek receives two other streams, Browns Creek from one side and Cummings Creek from the other.

Along the valley are numerous limestone springs, the waters of which are cold, an indication of purity. These help to make the creek larger. The first of them is a bold spring gushing out from under a hill near the fine home of S. Gibson. Further down the valley we find the stream called Mill Run near L. E. Moore's which receives water from a number of springs within a half mile. Next is the Mill Run at D. W. Dever's flowing through his farm where fine cattle graze. From here we go on to W. G. Beckman's where there is another stream of about equal volume. The source of it is also a magnificent never failing stream.

Last but no least is the famous Minehaha Spring on the Lockbridge property. The crystal water of this spring is of a healing and medical nature. It has been shipped to various parts of the country.

Origin of Names - "The Hills is the hilly region in the northwest of the valley. These are very productive lands and are excellent for fruit and grazing. They were at one time heavily timbered but now only small tracts remain uncut.

The creek from which our good community takes its name was known as Ewings Creek in the earliest land papers but was soon changed to Knapps Creek in honor of a man by the name of Knapp who came into the Valley from Virginia prior to 1749.

The report of this country probably led Martin and Sewell to make explorations in the Greenbrier Valley. At first the name of the creek was spelled K-A-P-S, later it was changed to KNAFFS.

While here Knapp lived in a cabin on the west side of the creek about opposite the place where Mrs. P. L. Cleck now lives. It is not definitely known what became of him.

Indians. There are evidences that the Indians once roamed through the thick forrests which covered what is now our beautiful section of country. Pieces of flint have been found by our citizens which were no doubt used by the Red Race. There was an Indian burial ground on a flat above the road a short distance up the valley from I. B. Moore's dwelling. Indications were to the older people that several Indians had been buried here. It has been said that a few relics were found in later years when some excavations were made.

Early settlers. Michael Dougherty, a native of Ireland, settled in our valley near where W. G. Ruckman lives about the year 1770. He was one of the first to occupy the Knapps Creek Region. The same year Moses Moore of Virginia came to Knapps Creek. It is interesting to note that he bought the land extending from J. L. Herold's to D. W. Dever's for the consideration of two steel bear traps and two pounds of English sterling. One of the traps is in the possession of I. B. Moore at this writing. The original cabin of Moses Moore was built on land now owned by Mrs. Myrtle Moore.

Mr. Moore was fond of hunting and would frequently spend several days in the region of the upper Greenbrier searching for game. One Sunday morning while sitting at his camp reading the Bible he was surrounded and captured by five or six Indians who compelled him to march to Ohio with them but through his cunningness he managed to escape and return to what is now Pocahontas County.

It is believed that the pioneer, Felix Grimes and his wife selected a site for a home in the hills near the Mt. Zion Church at a date preceeding 1800.

Old records show that John Sharp, Sr., Christopher Herold, Henry Harper, and John Willey settled in our community between the years of 1800 and 1825 inclusive. We

also mention that Lanty Lockridge and Michael Clegg came to the Valley early in the nineteenth century.

It was a task for the pioneers to clear the forest and build their homes with the poor equipment they had. They worked with a shop made poll axe. In places the thickets of white thorn and wild crab was almost impenetrable. When a primitive forest of white pine, sugar maple, and other trees of large size was cut, a log-rolling was soon in order and they were burned. Bears and wolves were numerous and sheep had to be penned near by the house to protect them.

Land. Many of these hardy pioneers were granted land by James Monroe, John Tyler, and other governors of Virginia between the years of 1800 and 1825. Some of them made difficult trips to Richmond in order that the title of the land where they settled might be made good. The value of the land was small in comparison with the cost per acre now. Old land grants show that one conveyance of land was made as late as 1857 at a little more than one cent per acre. This was a tract of timber land containing 11,000 acres in the Allegheny mountains which extend over to Back Creek. The sum paid for it only sixty-seven years ago (1790) was \$150.00. Since that time it has been sold and resold and millions of feet of valuable timber has been cut on it.

Making of a Rifle - At one time a man by the name of Evick lived in what is known as the Evick Hollow near Grover Moore's. He manufactures the Evick Rifle which was a famous gun in its day. We are told that one of these guns may be seen at the Pocatimes office. There may be some other hollows along the mountain that received names from men who were not permanent settlers.

Timber and saw mills. A fine lot of white pine timber stood along the foot of the Allegheny. Nearly all the good trees that grew on the level were destroyed because the settlers needed improved land more than timber. A number of sugar groves were left for the purpose of making maple sugar and syrup. The mountain timber has been going on the market since 1840. The white pine was cut first. The logs were peeled and floated down Knappa Creek and the Greenbrier River to Hancock where they were manufactured by the St. Lawrence Manufacturing Company.

Capt. A. E. Sutt and James Whiting, who did business under the firm name of

and whitening, had ten million feet of white pine cut each year for a period of six or seven years.

At that time hardwood seemed to be of little value. During the past fifteen or twenty years it has been cut rapidly, perhaps as much as one hundred and fifty to two hundred million feet have been taken from Knapps Creek and Douthards Creek and some valuable tracts are still standing.

The first saw mills to dot this section were the up and down mills run by water power. If we are rightly informed, there were three of these; one owned and operated by Moore's at a point about opposite Moore Schoolhouse, one was on the Lockridge farm where Douthards creek unites with Knapps Creek, and the third mill was built by Henry Harper and operated by him and his son Samuel, for a number of years. This last mill continued sawing until about 1890 and was the last mill of its kind to be operated in the community. Sometimes during the eighties P. M. Harper sawed lumber on this mill to build his house where Mrs. E. A. Pritchard now lives.

The first circular saw mill in this neighborhood was brought here from Augusta county, Virginia, for Wise Herold and I. B. Moore. Many people visited the new mill to observe its working.

Grist mill. The first mill to grind grain was the one owned by Michael Deerperty on the mill run where he settled. Peter Lightner, who was a well known citizen here in 1865, had a mill on the run at D. W. Dever's. Joseph Sharp, a pioneer of Frost, had a mill constructed close where A. A. Sharp now resides, one-half mile from the village.

Henry Harper also had a grist mill which ground wheat, corn and buckwheat. It was located on the farm owned by Harmon Shinoberry. In connection with the grist mill Mr. Harper had a saw mill which has already been mentioned, a tan-yard, and one of the old fashioned-tilthammer blacksmith shops. The tilthammer was run by water-power. The mill for grinding grain crushed the kernels between two large revolving stones which were brought from Rockbridge county, Virginia. It was not used longer than 1895.

The Civil War. No battles of the Civil War were fought on the territory embraced within the Knapps Creek Community but brave men who have lived here were in service.

Drinnon a member of this distinguished family. I think the Drinnons went to the northwest part of this state.

Robert Moore, my grandfather, who was captured by the Indians (see W. T, Price's History of Pocahontas for a full account of this capture). Robert Moore, Sr. once lived at the Bridger place, and reared his family there. My father, Isaac Moore, was born and raised there. One brother, Andrew, fell from a tree and was killed while other members of the family were stirring off a kettle of sugar. About 1820, Robert Moore, Sr. Moved to Edray and settled on the Drinnon holdings. He and his boys opened up a fine farm and erected a fine two story building in the Community. I believe the lumber that went into the house was sawed with the whipsaw as at that time there was no water power saw mills. The broad ax was extensively used in getting out all heavy timber for buildings. Robert Moore and his wife lived and died in the brick mansion, and were buried in the Edray Grave yard. He was born in 1768, died 1858, age 90 years. His wife was born 1771, died 1855, age 84 years. These graves were the first in the Edroy Graveyard; Robert Moore's real estate was divided with his boys and one daughter. The names of the sons were Isaac, James, William and Robert Jr. Robert received the old homestead, lived there many years and sold to J. W. Sharp about 1867 for seven thousand dollars. That included the upper part of the place, now owned by Isaac Sharp's heirs. I want to say just here, there was an old house stood about half way between the old brick house and the gate at the road. I think the old settler built and occupied this house while the brick house was being erected. When I was a small boy, elections were held in the old house. There was no ticket or ballot used. The Commissioner or "Conductor of Election asked the voter: "Who do you vote for?"

My father Isaac Moore, settled in the woods where I now live. Father's house was a hewed log house, about 16x20 ft; shingle roof, chinked and daubed walls; one door and one window in the first story, and some in second story. The porch was on the side and stairs went up from the porch.

The soil of Edroy Community is productive. The upland is largely limestone, naturally sod, with the blue grass when sod is taken off. The flat land below the

mountains is sand stone; not as rich as the limestone and not so good for grazing, but better for farming when improved; produces well and less liable to wash from heavy rains.

As to the timber, this community has been covered with all kinds of hard wood, bass wood; some spruce high on the mountains and hemlock along the streams. Some of the most valuable timber is black walnut, ash, cherry, red oak and white oak, a great deal of which has been cut and shipped. Other hardwoods are Chestnut oak, some black oak, pink oak and sugar. There is some yellow pine on the flats.

Edroy Community can boast of the best water in the state. Both limestone and free stone. There are many bold springs around the foot of the mountains. Always flowing, never dry, namely. At Elmer Sharp's, E.K. Sharp's and also a sulphur spring at E. K. Sharp's, a bold spring at the Cochran place, at A. C. Barlow's head of Big Spring, now owned by the Bank of Marlinton and sufficient to run a grist mill with twenty foot overshot water wheel. Other bold springs at Mrs. M. K. Sharp's G. W. Mann's and Drinnon Spring at Mrs. J.W. Price's at Edray. John D. Gay owns head of Indian Draft. There are many drilled wells in the flats all good water.

Some of the first schools were taught on the old farm homes. One among the first, if not the first, was in an old house near Mrs. George Baxter's home. The house was a round log structure, clapboard roof, held in place with press poles. The fireplace took up most of one end of the house. It was made of rough stone. Chimney made of slate and mud. Now, for light, paper was pasted over cracks and greased to let in the light. Other cracks in the building were chinked and daubed. Seats were made of split logs or poles, holes bored and pins put in for legs. The term of school was about three months. The salary was one dollar per scholar a month. Writing was done with quill pens. The teacher boarded with the scholars. My father Isaac Moore, taught at this school when a young man. The first schools were called "Open Schools." Everyone spelled and read aloud.

The first Church in Edray Community was built on Stony Creek and called Hamlin Chapel. It is a hewed log building. Cracks Chinked and daubed, shooed shingle roof, side galleries, seats, --long benches with slot backs, door in one end

of building, elevated pulpit in other end, two small 12 light windows on sides. Some years ago the side galleries were taken out and the building ceiled. Benches were taken out and chairs put in. This church is still in use and was built in 1835; as the records show it was deeded July 4, 1835.

Edray Church was built in 1863 E. D. King was the contractor and builder. Contract price above foundation \$700.00. For this work Lakin and Peters furnished about twenty thousand feet of lumber from their mill at Clover Lick, delivered at the Gay Siding; which is now the Fair Grounds, for ten dollars per thousand white pine lumber. Everything summed up, all told, the Edray church cost \$2032.25 .

Edray Post Office was the first post office in Edray Community.

When looking for a name, Mrs. Eliza Moore, mother of the late George P. Moore being a Bible reader, suggested a Bible name and said "Call the post office Edrei". Leaving off the ei and adding ry making Edray the name of the first post office. This office was established about 1850. As soon as Geo. P. Moore was of age, he became post master and continued to be until his death in 1922. He was the oldest post master in the U. S. A.

From Pocahontas Times ---Nov. 4, 1926

INVENTORY OF MATERIALS

County

Topic: _____ W. Va.

Title: Edray District, Pocahontas CountyAuthor: Kella F. YeagerStatus: Complete Date Submitted: _____ Length: 855 Words

Editor: _____

Contents: Fairly complete account of Edray District, Pocahontas County. Gives location, boundaries, surface, drainage, first settlers, description of first mills, school, post office; early churches & ministers; story of massacre of Drennen family.

Source: _____

Consultant: _____

Reliability: _____

File: _____

Folder: _____

A-2702

Reuben G. Yeager
checked
History
6
Drennin's Search

Edray district lies in the western part of the county, is bounded on the north by Randolph County; northeast by Greenbank District; east by Huntersville district; south by Little levels District and west by Webster County. The surface is rough and mountainous. In the north are the Middle Mountains and southern continuations of the Elk and Cheat Mountains; in the center are the Black Mountains and in the east and southeast rise the lofty peaks of Buckley, Marlins and Brushy ranges.

The principal drainage is to the west with the exceptions of Swago Creek, Stony Creek and one or two other small streams which flow east and fall into the Greenbrier River. All the streams flow west and form the head waters of Gauley and Elk

~~The rivers, being named in the general view of the county.~~

~~The first cabin home built within the limits of Edray~~
~~District~~ was that erected by Marlin and Sewell near the present site of Greenbrier Bridge in the 1749 and which was long known as Marlins Bottom now changed to Marlinton, the county seat of Pocahontas County. This settlement was as tho' it had not been. The first actual settlers who found what they were looking for - HOMES - were Thomas Drennin, Jacob Warwick, William Sharp, Robert Moore, John Johnson, Thomas Johnson, Robert Gay, William Poage, Patrick Slaterly, Robert Duffle, Thomas Brock, Lawrence Drennin and John Smith.

The first grist mill was built by Jonathan McNeill in the early part of 1800. It was located on Swago Creek, a short distance from its mouth.

years. His son, Solomon Conrad, who was a veteran of the war of 1812, after going through the war and being honorably discharged took charge of the home place and rebuilt the mill, which was made to grind buckwheat and wheat. About 1840, he built and operated an up and down saw mill, until the close of the Civil War. This mill, known as the Conrad Mill, was considered first class, making the very best corn meal, buckwheat and wheat flour. In connection with the saw mill he had a dry kiln, and always had some of the very best white pine lumber to sell. In that day and time no log was sawed into lumber unless it was the very best.

The old mill site and the Solomon Conrad homestead has been the home of O. L. Orndorff, a grandson, who, in 1893, ^{help} to re-roof and weatherboard the old home, and ^{employ} Warwick Hudson and Newton Ervin to rebuild the chimneys. This is the oldest house in the Greenbank community, having stood 115 years or more, is on the colonial style, with its massive chimneys, and old time fire places and spacious mantels in a fine state of preservation and has the appearance of standing another century.

In the year 1822, Patrick Bruffey purchased from Jacob Gillispie and James Tallman, 134 acres of land, which was part of the Thomas Jarvis Grant of 400 acres. He built a grist mill and saw mill and carved a mill race out of the hill side more than a quarter of a mile. This same mill race has been in constant use for a period of 112 years and is still running. In connection with the saw mill, he established a wagon shop,

blacksmith shop, and supplied the neighborhood with wagons. The late William Sutton of the hill neighborhood, learned the wagon makers trade under Patrick Bruffey and carried on the work long after the Civil War. Patrick Bruffey was Magistrate in the community for several years and became Sheriff of Pocahontas County later.

The pioneer, Daniel Kerr, who, soon after the Revolutionary War, located on Deer Creek, now below the town of Boyer, established a grist mill, saw mill, blacksmith shop and managed a store and his place became one of industry for that part of the community. A lathe was installed at this place and was operated by Frederick Phillips, who was a wheelright, and made spinning wheels, looms, reels, spools, spool frames, and chairs. The site of this old mill may be seen on the north side of the creek near the east end of the Hevener farm.

The pioneer Luday Taylor, who was a veteran of the war of 1812, purchased land from Solomon Townsend and others in 1819, and settled on Galford's Creek. He erected a grist mill and a saw mill. This mill was kept in running condition until about 1880, and had its niche in the early advancement and development of that part of Greenbank community. The old Luday Taylor homestead is now owned by Arch Galford.

Thus is noted some of the early developments of Greenbank District, Pocahontas County, which District now leads the County in industrial development.

Bella H. Geary

(Above information gotten from local sources)

A4 Sharp
Family History
5 files -
By Ward Sharp

Character - Section 11 b - 3

THE POCAHONTAS TIMES

Entered at the Postoffice at Marlinton, W. Va., as second class matter.

CALVIN W. PRICE, EDITOR

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 5, 1940

The trip last week was over to Clarksburg to rehash a few feeble jests before that friendly society, the Kiwanis Club, and tell them builders where to head in. The invite came through the courtesy of Rupert Sinsel. He is a kinsman through the Warwick line. I am only hoping I did not say too much to disgrace the family reputation in those parts.

The Sinsels are a strong family connection in Bobbourn county. Their connection with the Warwick relationship is through the marriage of a daughter of Charles Cameron See, son of Adam and Mary Warwick See, the latter a daughter of Major Jacob Warwick of Pocahontas county. Charles Cameron See's wife was a daughter of Dr Squire Bosworth of Beverly.

I recall my father, the late Dr. William T. Price, telling interestingly of a visit he paid to the Sensel family when he went out with the Tin Cup Campaign to Grafton in 1861 to defend the Commonwealth from invasion from the north. The Sinsel children said they were glad to see cousin, but for the sake of peace and harmony not to talk war before Grandpa Sinsel, and not to mention the mission which brought him to those parts. He could get by all right, as no uniforms had been issued to the Virginia soldiers for this first campaign.

Morning came after a pleasant sojourn evening and a night of restful repose. Like in all regulated house holds, then as now, the day was fairly begun with family prayer. The old patriarch had the young minister read the Scripture portion, but he reserved to himself the matter of leading the prayer. The gist of the most fervent petitions was that the Union of States be preserved; by gentle persuasion if possible, but by unhesitating force if necessary.

I have the impression pa did not especially appreciate being prayed against, but what could he do about it?

For about eight years—from 1784 to 1792—from Saulsbury Run to Swagot Creek, from Boyer to Buckeye

grand jury return indictments for murder against many of our prominent people. They had been Confederate soldiers, and were halled before a civil court to answer for acts of war.

It kind of leaked out that the indictment would be quashed by the judge for cash consideration. I never heard tell of any of the true bills being taken care of in this easy, quiet, crooked way. My recollection is the court records will show the indictment against Captain Jacob W Marshall, of the 19th Virginia Cavalry, was not thrown out of court until sometime in the eighties when Judge Homer Holt was on the bench.

Anyway the people quietly organized a lynching bee to deal summarily with the Judge Harrison on his return to Lewisburg from the Hunterville court. In some way the word leaked to the judge and he went home by way of Anthony Creek instead of the usual route, the Lewisburg and Marlins Bottom Turnpike. I have heard the rspe was to be tied to the Marlinton bridge when they dropped the judge in the river.

Then the judge got in a mess at the Lewisburg court; got knocked through a window by the clerk of the court; went west and died within my own recollection in a poor house in Colorado.

All this is just leading up to say that the late Spencer Dayton appeared on the scene at a time when a lot of good people were in need of an advocate. The local attorneys were debarred by reason of the test oath. They could not swear they had not aided and abetted the late Southern Confederacy.

Incidentally one of them, Captain D. A. Stopher did stand and so swear. Having raised a whole company, called the Pocahontas Rescues, and marched them off in the Tin Cup Campaign to Philippi as their captain; having collected some five minie balls in his body during the following four years of war, the doughty captain was promptly indicted for false swearing. Then he too apparently stood in need of an advocate as much as anybody else.

It was Spencer Dayton who came into the breach. He came here from Summersville, over the Nicholas Trail through the Black Forest. It is said he disliked to wear shoes, and that he walked the distance barefooted, carrying his shoes and only putting them on when he came in sight of the court house. Anyway, the set

a big part of Pocahontas was in the original confines of Harrison county. However, times were such, our people did not do much business so far as the records go in their county seat a week's walk away on the West Fork of the Monongahela. If ever I get a peaceful moment in Clarksburg I will look up the court records for those eight years.

The Harrison County Line it still a landmark here. Beginning at the Ohio River below Parkersburg it crossed Williams River at the Falls and Greenbrier River at the Buckley Rocks above the mouth of Swago and thence to the Top of Alleghany where the Greenbrier and Pocahontas line corners on the State boundary. This survey was made in 1785. This line dividing Botetourte and Alleghany, had been projected years before. It was recognized though never surveyed. The reason I say recognized is the Ewings, Kinnisons and McNeels went to Point Pleasant in 1774 with Botetourte companies, for they lived below Swago; the Poages, Johnsons, Moores, Warwicks, Camerons, who lived above Swago, went out with Augusta companies.

About all that can be said about our people being a part of Harrison county is that while it was so said on the book for eight years they were a part of it, in reality they did not know nor do much about it.

In counties west of us, the bearing of the old Harrison county line was taken by the old surveyors as the base line in running out the land grants.

The Sinsel family is connected with the Dayton family. The wife of Judge A. G. Dayton was a Miss Sinsel; their son is the Honorable Arthur Dayton of Charleston, leading lawyer, outstanding Shakespearian scholar of his generation, and a recognized art critic in the field of picture painting. What I am leading up to say is the late Judge Dayton was the son of the late Spencer Dayton. He came from Connecticut along about some time in the early fifties or late forties to practice law. This he did extensively in a whole block of counties which are now in central West Virginia. Incidentally when his grandson, Arthur, moved from Philippi to Charleston some years since, the name of Dayton was removed from the list of attorneys at the bar of Barbour county, where it held honorable position for eighty years—grandfather, son and grandson.

Spencer Dayton is a tradition in Pocahontas county, and I have let the old people die off without finding out about his practice and service here in reconstruction times. Of course his family has written some thing about him and his ancestors tracing the line over to Old England and even running it down to Runny Meade, whatever and wherever that was. I reckon I ought not admit I am so provincial and narrow as to have small interest beyond my own Valley and State. But then doggone a man can easily take in too much territory and spread himself too thin. A man's responsibility must need have boundaries somewhere.

vice of a strong lawyer was then available to an opposed people. I don't know of any of the trumped up murder cases coming to trial; certainly there were no convictions; eventually through the years the indictments were thrown out of court.

As for the indictment against Captain Stupper in some way appeal was taken to the Federal Court at Clarksburg, where the case was baffled along until the state restored the right of franchise to the Confederate soldier, and then dropped.

This, sketchily, is the tradition of Spencer Dayton, the lawyer from the North, in Pocahontas county at a time when a lot of good people sure needed the help he so ably and so cheerfully rendered them.

You know, I never pose as a person with a message. In fact, when it comes to men with messages and women with missions, I devoutly ask a merciful heaven to deliver us, along with sudden death, bone erysipelas and poison ivy. However, I did tell those West Forkers down in Clarksburg that since their hick town was now something more than a wide place on the old Northwest Pike it was about time they were realizing the need of culture, and for heaven's sake to do the right thing by Salem College. This fine old school is eking out a somewhat precarious existence. Once it was down the pike ways, it is now just exactly far enough out in a suburban area. It is living up to and beyond its honorable traditions by doing a bigger and better work than ever before. Woefully is it handicapped by cut throat competition from State supported schools—which cannot be helped—and through lack of means to really meet the demands for higher education by Clarksburg boys and girls, so many of whom cannot go elsewhere—which can be helped.

It happens to be in name a Baptist College—tank or deep water I cannot say—but I do say the West Forker who would refuse moral and financial support to such a local institution because it bears not the name of his particular persuasion, the lid of the pit is popping for his lean old narrow soul.

I tried to tell them what the city of Richmond had done for the University of Richmond, a so called denominational college; what Huntington had done for Marshall College; what Charleston is liable to wake up and do for Morris Harvey; how Morgantown has been dead asleep at the switch as regards any apparent local interest, which would cost anything in the way of money and effort, for the advancement of West Virginia University.

Oh, I tried to throw the gad to those boys of the friendly society, who talk so big of service. For after all is said and done, the ordinary institution of higher learning—whether denomination, State or endowment proposition—is first and foremost a local industry. Regardless of everything, such institutions flourish or languish in relation to the light of community culture, whether bright or flickery.

After the
Civil War
Indictments
and
The Test oaths

In the years immediately following the war between the states, the reconstruction judge was a carpetbagger from Vermont or New Hampshire by the name of Nat Harrison. He had come into prominence somewhat as attorney for defense in the last trial for piracy on the high seas. This was in a Federal Court in New York. The brilliant young lawyer won decision to clear his clients of the charge.

About fifteen years after the celebrated trial, Attorney Nat Harrison turns up at Lewisburg as the Circuit Judge for the Greenbrier Valley counties. To say the least, he was an unlovely character. One item in many counts our people hold against Judge Harrison was his having the

The space is all used up and not a word about that local Clarksburg institution, Wade Pepper, writer extraordinary for the Clarksburg Exponent; Carlisle Wade, a Marlinton boy making good with the West Penn; who was so nice to me; how I missed seeing Forrest McNeill by a day, like has happened every time so often the past forty years; how Paul McNeill, another Pocahontas product, treated me so kindly.

I did the best I knew how to please. I started out in a lady-like glow; soon I perspired in a gentlemanly way, and wound up sweating like a horse. I am not going back unless they ask me.

MISCELLANEOUS

Send any suggested changes at once to
HISTORIC MARKER COMMISSION
City Building, Charleston, W. Va.

POCAHONTAS COUNTY

Formed from Bath, Pendleton,

Randolph and Greenbrier in (5 Boundary Markers)

1821. Named for Pocahontas, Pocahontas-Greenbrier U.S. 219

Indian princess, the friend Pocahontas-Randolph U.S. 219

of the Jamestown settlers. Pocahontas-Randolph U.S. 250

site of Droop Mountain battle, Nov. 6, 1863. The famous Pocahontas-Virginia U.S. 250

Cranberry Glades are here, Pocahontas-Pendleton W. Va. 28

MARLINTON

Settled, 1749, by Sewell and
Marlin. The oldest recorded
settlement on western waters.

Here stood oak, marking corner
of first survey west of
Alleghenies. Here was Fort
Greenbrier, built, 1755, and
garrisoned by General Lewis.

(Opposite Side)

MARLINTON

The old Seneca Indian Trail
from New York to Georgia
still may be seen nearby.

During the French and Indian
War, 18 settlers lost lives
in vicinity. During Indian
raids in 1779, 13 were killed
and many were taken captive.

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POCAHONTAS COUNTY (Continued)

"TRAVELERS' REPOSE"

Made famous in novels of Hergesheimer, Bierce and others. This is the country of "Tol'able David". On the neighboring hills are the Confederate trenches of W.L. Jackson's troops. Scene of minor engagements, 1861.

MILLPOINT

Here Stephen Sewell camped in 1750. Site of Fort Day, 1774. To the north, Indians killed James Bridger, father of the noted Oregon Trail scout, with his brother. Here James E.A. Gibbs invented chain-stitch sewing machine.

HUNTERSVILLE

Established in 1821. Early trading post here brought hunters and trappers and gave name to the town. In 1822, first county court met here at the cabin of John Bradshaw. Gen. Lee was encamped here in 1861.

HILLSBORO

Here General Averell camped before the Battle of Droop Mountain and after his raid

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HILLSBORO

Here General Averell camped
before the Battle of Droop
Mountain and after his raid
to Salem, Virginia, in 1863.
Settlements were made in the
vicinity in the 1760's by
John McNeel and the Kinnisons.
Birthplace of Pearl Buck.

POCAHONTAS COUNTY (Continued)

DROOP MOUNTAIN

Here, November 6, 1863, Union troops, commanded by General Averell, defeated Confederate forces under General Echols. This has been considered the most extensive engagement in this State and the site was made a State park in 1929.

RIDER GAP

In this mountain gap, through which came early pioneers, Gen. W. W. Loring camped, 1861, with 10,000 Confederates. In July, Gen. Lee succeeded him here. North and south is the mountain road which offers a hundred-mile sky line drive.

Inventory of Materials

Topic:

Points of Interest W. Va.

Title:

Hillsboro
Pocahontas County

Author:

Date Submitted:

11-26-37

Length:

Status:

Editor:

Contents:

Birthplace of Pearl S. Buck
Gives present owner of house,
present condition.

Source:

Questions answered by Postmaster of
Hillsboro.

Consultant:

Reliability:

File:

Folder:

WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION

OF WEST VIRGINIA

312 Smallridge Building,
Charleston, W. Va.

ALDERSON
ADMINISTRATOR

November 18, 1937.

Pocahontas Co

Postmaster Hillsboro,
West Virginia.

Dear Sir:

A few facts connected with the history of the house in which Pearl S. Buck was born are needed by the Federal Writers' Project for the completion of the Hillsboro story. I shall be greatly obliged if you will supply the answers to the following questions:

Who are the present owners and occupants? *Geo. R. Edgier*
Is it open to visitors? *would deny you if you want in*
Has it been changed materially since its construction, *Not very much*
inside or outside?
Is there anything of particular interest to be seen there? *just a plain country house*

Thanking you for your kind cooperation, I am,

Very truly yours,

John L. Stender
John L. Stender,
State Director
Federal Writers' Project.

JLS:ew

Civil War

Shortly after the Civil War a political orator waved the bloody flag at Edray and urged the people to vote the way they had shot. Rev. John Waugh replied to him something like this: "The war is over. It is our duty to promote peace. I had a son in the Confederate army and I had a son in the Union army. If the hostilities continue, the factions will be holding their basket dinners in different hollows." This was the last effort on the part of any speaker to make a bloody flag speech in this county.

From 1926 W. Va. Blue Book

* (red) The Civil War marked the division line in this county between the old and the new. The thinking men in the county were especially interested in the 1870 in introducing appliances that the soldiers had observed on their campaigns. This was the line of demarkation between the sickle and the grain cradle, the flintlock rifle and the repeating rifle, the introduction of the steam engine and the portable sawmill to take the place of the water turned mill, kerosene lamps for candle light. M. A. Friel of near Clover Lick owned the first kerosene lamp ever in the county in 1865.

But more than anything else that spurred the business men of Pocahontas County was the success of James E. A. Gibbs, of Marlinton, who after the Civil War found he was rich because of the success of a chain stitch sewing machine he had invented just before the war.

The older citizens of today have seen the adoption of such things as the steam engine, sewing machine (1872), turbine wheel, telephone (1898), printing ships (1882) bend mills, and many more. On the other hand, during this period, we lost a great many skilled workmen such as candlemakers, farriers, shoemakers, weavers, spinners, taylors, harnessmakers, saddlers, stonemasons and the like. This was especially true after the covered wagons began to make regular trips to bring in freight from Millboro, Staunton, Huttonsville, and Ronceverte and with the coming of the railroads in 1901 they became fewer and fewer.

The industrial developments were gradual. This county developed along with the internal developments of Virginia through the building of turnpikes in the 1830-50.

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At this time our natural resources were practically untouched. Agriculture and grazing of live stock were the chief industries.

*(green) Agriculture was the chief pursuit of the early settlers of Pocahontas county. Because travel was difficult and transportation facilities were meager, the settlers were compelled to be practically self sustaining. Gardening, together with the growing of small patches of buckwheat, corn, beans, and potatoes, largely constituted the early farming enterprises. Later cattle, sheep, and hogs were introduced principally for mildm wool and meat to supplement the supply of wild game and fish that was an important source of food and clothing. Trapping furnished furs and skins that could be traded for the few supplies not produced at home. The bottom lands were generally devoted to grain and hay, and the adjacent slopes were cleared and used for pasture. The land has always been farmed, for the most part, in small tracts by the owners. Few slaves were owned and the freeing of them did not affect agriculture.

Between 1880 and 1890 the production of all grains and crops increased materially. The total acreage in all grains has remained fairly constant since 1890, but acreage in certain crops have fluctuated considerably. Corn has been in the lead at all times followed by either wheat or oats. Hay increased from 10,817 acres in 1879 to 15,138 acres in 1889 and has increased very little since, but the acre yield has been more than doubled. Since 1900 the total number of hogs and cattle has dropped off slightly, but the number of sheep raised and the production of wool, dairy products, poultry and eggs have increased considerably. The acreage occupied by potatoes and garden crops most of which are grown for home use, fluctuates from year to year.

Between 1880 and 1910 the number of farms steadily increased from 682 to 1,198, the latter figure being only 3 below that given by the 1930 census report. As the size of the farms has decreased slightly in the last 50 years, the total amount of land in farms has remained fairly constant.

Poor transportation facilities, long distance from markets, and the need of cash income forced the farmers of this section in early days to turn to the production of beef. Even now with railroad shipping available, it remains the largest source of income. Formerly all cattle, when ready for market, were driven overland. To outside markets, principally pittsburg, Baltimore and Clarkeburg. Many were sold as feeders

the Shenandoah and Potomac Valleys to the east and were later marketed from there.
Practically all the cattle were sold grass fattened.

Farming methods and management were governed largely by the steepness of the land and the size of the farm. Soon after transportation facilities became available the larger land owners brought in mowing machines, reapers, buggy rakes and wagons, but on the smaller patch farms and on steep or stony lands, much of the work was still done by hand, and continues so even today.

* (red) From---Pocahontas Times --- 1929
by --- Andrew Price

* (green) From---Report on Poca. County
by --- Dr. B. H. Williams of the U. S. Depart. of Agri.

Chapter 4

Juanita Wiley 317

FIRST COURT OF POCAHONTAS (cont.)

The business of the third day of this historical term of court was the organization of the 127th Regiment of the State Militia as a part of the Virginia military establishment. The following citizens were commissioned as officials:

John Baxter, Colonel
Benjamin Tallman, Lieutenant Colonel
William Blair, Major
Boone Tallman, William Arbogast
Henry Herold, Isaac Moore
and Milburn Hughes, Captains
Andrew G. Mathews
Robert Warwick, William Morgan
William Young and James Rhea, Lieutenants
Jacob Slaven, James Wanless
Samuel Young and
James Callison, Ensigns

Regimental Muster

From the time of the organization of the 127 Regiment on March 7, 1822 until the Civil War, Regimental Muster days were the big social gatherings of the year. It was the one occasion on which all the men of the county had a chance to get together. Every man between the ages of eighteen and forty-five were required to take part in the military practice.

For several year after the organization of this Regiment the Brigade Inspector was Major John Alexander of Lexington.

He would bring his drummer and fifer with him, two colored men in bright red uniforms. These colored men were the envy of all the colored men of the county.

The Colonel would train the men for about three days. Then on the fourth day came the yearly regimental, or "Big Muster" as it was usually called. This took place in May just after corn planting. People crowded into Huntersville from all sections of the county and there was much social hilarity. The saloons did a flourishing business. About eleven o'clock the long roll of the drum was heard. The colonel and his staff appeared at the head of the street and paraded the street proceeded by fife and drum. On their return the Colonel instructed the adjutant to have the regiment formed. The Colonel and staff would then return to headquarters.

In the meantime the Captain gave orders for the men to fall into ranks. When formed the adjutant placed them in position and reported all in readiness. The Colonel and his staff would appear at the head of the regiment. It was then reviewed by the Colonel and his staff proceeded by the band. Then he would return to the head of the regiment. The order was then given to close ranks and form in column of twos. Soon the whole regiment was on the march to a neighboring field selected for the developments. Two or three hours would be passed in drill and fake battle, then the bugle would sound the retreat. The drum and fife would take up Bonapartes' "Retreat from Moscow" and the whole column would return to Huntersville in slow and regular order. There they disbanded.

Cake, beer and other drinks were then passed round. And then came the celebration for which so many had looked forward. Night usually found many of them still in town sorry it did not last longer. Some of them would stage fake battle on their way home which can be illustrated by the following events:

May 1854 on returning from Muster rather late in the evening some of the men were racing their horses in furious charge against imaginary British on the Cummings Creek road, Two miles from Huntersville. While not in the charge. Isaac Jordan's horse seemed to smell something of the make-believe battle, reared and plunged, throwing his rider and severely fracturing his thigh. William Gibson, merchant and hotel keeper at Huntersville was sent for and Mr. Jordan was taken back to Mr. Gibson's home. John Cochran was employed to nurse him for three months until he was able to return home.

Pocahontas citizens who were colonels of the regiment were: John Baxter, Benjamin Tallman, John Hill, Paul McNeel, D.W. Kerr, James Tallman, W.T. Gammon, James T. Lockridge, David W. Kerr.

Juanita S. Dilley
Clover Lick, W. Va.

Regimental Muster Day
and
County Officials

June 7, 1940

Nelle Y. McLaughlin
Marlinton, W. Va.

POCAHONTAS COUNTY

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Chapter 5 - Section 2

All my life I have heard of the lost seng patch in the mountains somewhere between the headwaters of Greenbrier River and Shavers Fork Cheat. One of the stories was that Union soldiers on a scouting tour in the mountains came upon an acre or two of seng stalks, growing thick as weeds. There was no time to stop and dig, and those who survived the war never could go back and find the place. At least, that is what they said.

One of these soldiers, who fought under General Averill, was an uncle of Sol Workman (S. S. Workman) of Marlinton. The young soldier marked the place as being on the blazed line of an ancient land survey. He told his nephews, Jim and Sol Workman about it, and how they could find it if they would follow the old land line. At a guess this might have been a line of the old Phillip Survey, made away back just after the American Revolution. One of the lines of one of these old land surveys in that part of the country is nearly twenty miles long on one bearing.

Anyway about thirty years ago before the big timber was cut, Sol and Jim Workman took back packs of provisions and set out to find the lost seng patch. Out from Durbin they found the old line of marked trees, and for the better part of a week they followed the line, senging as they went and sleeping where night came upon them.

Finally they came to the place, on the rocky side

POCAHONTAS COUNTY

-2-

of a ridge, but the late Thomas Kellison of Little Back Creek had beaten them to it by a matter of a few days.

Seng stalks were lying around in piles and bundles. He had made a rich haul. There was plenty of sign too that the patch had been dug years before.

Though the boys missed the big prize, the trip was well worth while as they dug nearly two hundred dollars worth of seng, as they traveled in ferreting out the big patch.

On the trip the boys found that the old line went through such a big patch of laurel, they were the better part of two days working their way through it, camping in the middle of it one night.

Although the big timber was cut years ago, Sol believes he has the place so well marked in his mind that he can make his way to it again.

Pocahontas Times for June 1937

POCAHONTAS COUNTY

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Chapter 5 - Section 2

Mr. James Workman of the Little Levels District gave me the following information:

Along about 1830 or 1840, A. J. Workman, the father of Sol and Jim Workman, bought a farm of 175 Acres on Rock Run. He was one of the greatest sengers in the county. I have been told by many people that he could see a stalk of ginseng as far as the eye could carry. He paid for this farm by selling ginseng at seventy-five cents per pound. Mr. Workman told me that in those days ginseng was about the only thing that a farmer could get any money from. Of course, the furs of the mink and coons could be sold or traded for salt, sugar or coffee. Mr. Workman would go to Williams River and stay for weeks at a time. He would take with him only bacon, corn meal and coffee. Sometimes he would not even carry a gun. Once, while out there, he heard a panther kill a deer at night. As he had no gun, he waited until morning and then went to look for what remained of the deer. He said there was about half of the deer remaining and he dressed this and brought it back to use.

Mr. Workman remembers hearing his father talk about trading with John Harness at Huntersville. He would take his pelts, venison and ginseng and would bring home salt, powder, coffee, lead or whatever he could get that he needed.

Besides ginseng, there were other herbs which were sold, such as golden seal and seneca snake root.

Mr. Workman remembers the first white sugar he ever saw.

POCAHONTAS COUNTY

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POCAHONTAS COUNTY

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He said that they, as children, thought it the finest candy they had ever eaten.

The livestock was kept in pens near the house to keep it safe from the wild animals. But even this failed at times. Bears often came at night and took the pigs out of the pens. In those days they did not worry so much about raising enough corn for their stock. They would just turn them out and fatten them on dogwood and birch.

They had regular days for trading, usually near the last of the week. They traded horses, live stock, furs and anything they had for the things they needed.

Sometime between 1885-89 a coal mine was opened at Briary Knob. The coal was hauled to Laurel Run to fire a locomotive used for a log train by the St. Lawrence Boom and Manufacturing Company. This locomotive had been hauled in here on wagons a piece at a time and then put together here. The locomotive was called "Pocahontas". There were 45,000,000 ft. of white pine taken out of that one hollow.

From West Virginia Geological Survey - 1929- Pocahontas Co.

In Pocahontas County coals are found in the Pocono and Mauch Chunk Series of the Mississippi and the Kanawha and New River Groups of the Pottsville Series, but it is only in the latter two groups that coals of commercial value and minable thickness are found, the Pocahontas Group and the Pottsville Series that contains the famous Pocahontas coals of southern West Virginia being

POCAHONTAS COUNTY

-4-

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POCAHONTAS COUNTY

-5-

entirely absent in this area. The coals of the Kanawha and New River Groups, ^{that} are present in this county are confined to the western limits of Little Levels, Edray, and Greenbank Districts.

Of the five Pottsville coals which occur in this county there are three which appear to have a definite minable thickness in some localities. The three beds regarded as minable in descending order are the Gilbert, Hughes Ferry, and Sewell coals.

Because of their distance from permanent railroads and coal markets, and their general inaccessibility, their development will undoubtedly be in the somewhat distant future, but should nevertheless be considered as one of the county's valuable potential resources.

There are no commercial mines in Pocahontas County.

In the vicinity of Hillsboro, there are deposits of marble varying in color from red to maroon to a pinkish tinge and from that to various shades of gray. This marble phase varies from 25 to 40 feet in thickness and will produce stone suitable for ornamental purposes. At the time of the building of the new State Capitol, this marble was offered but refused, perhaps on account of its inaccessibility.

POCAHONTAS COUNTY

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POCAHONTAS COUNTY

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Chapter 5 - Section 1

The old log house on the farm of Mr. A. J. Workman had floors made of inch boards. A man named William Miller had hewed the boards by hand out of poplar. To clean these floors, they would put sand on them about an inch thick. This would be left on four or five days and when the floors were scrubbed, they would be white and clean. The pioneer homes were kept scrupulously clean.

There were no regular hours for work. Both the men and the women worked from daylight to dark. The food was coarse but they had plenty of it. Such a thing as a balanced meal had never been heard of. They had plenty of all kinds of wild meat and fish. Corn meal was used mostly for bread, but once in a great while they would have wheat bread. This was quite a treat.

The laundry was done at the creek when it was not too cold. They used big kettles for heating the water. Iron cooking utensils were used almost altogether because the food was cooked over a fireplace or in the coals.

In those days there was not so much stress laid on bathing but every boy could swim and from early spring until late fall, they went to the creek to swim and incidentally bathe.

June 3, 1940

Nelle V. McLaughlin
Marlinton, W. Va.

POCAHONTAS COUNTY

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Chapter 5 - Section 1 - C

This is the story of "Lame Paw" the Outlaw, as told by Mr. Andrew Price in the 1926 Blue Book. Five years ago "Lame Paw" stepped into a steel trap and left a toe to show who had been there and the toe was hung up and after that the big track registered the identity of the animal. He had been making his home on Gibson's Knob. This is not the highest peak in these mountains but it is well up in the forty odd hundred feet and in a way it is one of the most spectacular features of the landscape. It has been cleared on the top and forms a long mound covered with blue grass. The mountain is encircled on every side by fine blue grass farms and it is the center of one of the finest grazing countries in West Virginia. C

County roads enclose it. Starting at Edray and following the pike to Linwood, and turning there and traversing the road to Clover Creek and thence to Poage's Lane and Warwick and back to Edray you travel a circle of thirty-three miles.

I have tried to get a list of the men who made up the hunt that day after Lame Paw, and I talked to some who were in it, and was told of twelve men and twelve hounds that made up the hunt. In addition to that every man on every side of Gibson's Knob had a bear load in his gun and was ready to fire.

The twelve I listed were: Charles Sheets, James Gibson, Robert Gibson, Willie Gibson, Dallas Tacy, Another Tacy, Doc

POCAHONTAS COUNTY

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Gibson, W. E. Poage, Ross Hamrick, Carl Gibson, French Hoover. Added later: Henry Simmons, Amos Wooddell, Elmer Hannah and Roscoe Bennett, sixteen in all.

Of the twelve hounds, two were heroes, "Roamy", belonging to James Gibson, and "Liner", belonging to Dallas Tacy.

The standers were placed and the hounds taken to the top of Gibson's Knob, and there in the bear wallow was fresh sign of the bear. The hounds were loosed and within a hundred and fifty yards they jumped the big bear and another from their beds in a Wind Shake Fall, near a laurel patch. Lame Paw's companion in crime lit out from there as fast as he could lay foot to the ground and took with him ten hounds and so far as is known is going yet. It was a part of the cunning of the ancient bear, no doubt, to have a young racing bear handy to draw off such dangers as this.

But Roamy and Liner had been conferring over the matter and they knew very well the small bear was not the object of the hunt. If it had not been for these wise dogs, the whole pack would have been drawn away after the subservient bear that Lame Paw kept for the purpose and Lame Paw would have been left with his head on his paws brooding over the endless expanse that surrounded his high lookout.

But Roamy and Liner prodded him out. Lame Paw was too old and fat to enjoy running but he decided that he would have to waddle his finest if he got to Gauley Mountain and away from the dogs, men and guns.

POCAHONTAS COUNTY

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he could not do anything with the hounds. One good swipe of his paw would crush a hound, but the hounds side-stepped and kept out of the way. They also kept him from fleeing rapidly. One hung on one flank of the big bear and one on the other. Each dog picked the hind leg that he was to chew and paid attention to it. When Roamy bit the leg assigned to him, the bear would stop and cuff him off, and Liner would then fasten on the leg left exposed and the big brute was much harried and distressed.

The hounds in the meantime were giving tongue and letting the hunters know the way the game was taking. The bear circled and ran about two miles until he made his last stand in the rough ground on the south side of Russell Hannah's farm, near the passway towards Slaty Fork.

The chase came near the place where James Gibson and Charles were standing, and the hunters, who were close together, both started to run to the hounds, for they could tell that the hunt had passed them and that the bear was at bay fighting the hounds. The two hunters ran in company a mile or more but there was this difference: James Gibson was sixty-eight years old, and after the first mile found that his age somewhat affected him though still sound in mind and limb. Charles Sheets was in his twenties and did not mind how far he had to run. Seeing Mr. Gibson slow up in the foot race, Mr. Sheets slowed up also and said that he would wait and go on with Mr. Gibson at a slower pace. Mr.

POCAHONTAS COUNTY

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Gibson told him that it was so important to get that bear, for him to go on where the bear was raising the devil with the hounds, and so Mr. Sheets came to the bear.

Lame Paw, twelve inches between the ears, was trying to put his paw on the dog, and when the paw came down the dog was elsewhere. Sheets had the following equipment: A Winchester repeating shot gun, with shell loaded with an ounce ball. It seems that of late years, the man who carries a twelve guage shotgun that uses shells, each containing an ounce of small shot, may buy at the hardware stores shells in which each has an ounce ball and this ball cartridge when shot from such a shotgun has about the same range as the old time mountain rifle, and it is very effective ammunition for deer and bears.

The bear and dogs were fussing around in a grown up hacking and Sheets was able to shoot Lame Paw twice before the harrassed bear knew that that his enemy was on him. One of the balls went through the body near the heart and the other entered near the backbone and ranged back to the ham. The bear then went on and the dogs showed their perfect team work, each tagging at a ham and dodging and coming again.

Sheets followed but for a time it was not possible to shoot on account of the presence of the hounds and Sheets, having plenty of speed, ran around the bear and took his position on a rocky place in a cleft in the cliffs where the bear must pass. And out of the brush the big brute cameed

POCAHONTAS COUNTY

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and as it happened, he got rid of the dogs for the time being.

Now a bear being the wisest and most timid of animals where man is concerned, will not come in shouting distance if he can help it, but when cornered or attacked there is no animal as dangerous and as hard to stop with a ball. In this case the bear, desperately wounded but with all his power left, made directly at the hunter as fast as he could lay his feet to the ground, and the hunter refusing to be a consenting party to his own destruction, in the space of a fraction of a second took aim and shot Lane Paw square between the eyes, and the big hunt was over.

On being examined the worn condition of the teeth indicated an old bear. It was as fat as fat could be and the meat was good to those who like bear meat. Owing to the late spring the hide was in perfect condition, the hair being long, thick, black and glossy.

The bear was thought to have weighed about five hundred pounds, and was the second largest bear that had been killed on the waters of Elk, and that was saying a good deal for there have been hundreds if not thousands of bears killed in those fine bear grounds.

The largest bear was fourteen inches between the ears, and was the famous Williams River sheep killing bear, killed on Elk in 1910 by Samuel Gibson. He was generally referred to as the "Old Hellion", and he used on Elk River and Williams River for years and actually put some farmers out of the sheep business.

some

dead.

15 minutes

Marathon Race----- 1898

The year of 1898 saw the revival of the Olympic games in Greece after 4000 years. These Englishmen at Mingo were very much interested in them, and they sent a challenge, to the boys at Marlinton, for a of 25 miles. The challenge was accepted. As the day approached and training went on, our athletes at Marlinton began with one accord to make excuses, for 25 miles and over two mountains, is a long run.

The Marlinton entries dwindled down to one, but Mingo was in no better shape, for they found that they could have but one entry. Dr. Norman R. Price, who has since won the rank of major in the army(world war), was the entry from Marlinton. S.E.L.Grews, a splendid gentleman, a son of an English colonel, was the other entry. A telephone line had recently been built into the county and people could keep tab on the race.

The race was to begin at the Randolph county line, and was to be run over what is now the Seneca Trail to Marlinton. It took place on September 24, 1898. Andrew Price was the time-keeper.

The two boys raced to much at the start and made the first 12 miles in an hour, but at just 2 hrs. 59 minutes Grews came in winning. As he came toward the goal, he had the expression of a deer that had been run to death by hounds. He went home with death in his face, and in a few weeks he dropped dead.

Norman Price came in in three hours and 15 minutes. He told me that he felt none the worse for the race except that

his feet were blistered and very sore for about a week. He said that he had on leather shoes, as tennis shoes were unknown in Pocahontas at that time.

I interviewed Dr. Price on April 26, 1940 for this material, as the account given in the W. Va. Blue Book 1928 was not like I had always heard it. Dr. Norman said his brother Andrew just wrote that for a joke on him.

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April 23, 1940

Nelle Y. McLaughlin
Marlinton, W. Va.

Pocahontas County

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Chapter 4 - Section 3

The Story of Selim, the Algerine.

Mr. Andrew Price, on one of his visits to Highland County visited the home of Col. Lewis McClung on Bull Pasture River. Mr. Price said that he felt some hesitancy in breaking into the group of people seated on the long porch of the beautiful old colonial home. He was received very hospitably and Mr. Price found that he had an inexhaustable fund of historical knowledge. They talked about the fort being established there in 1754 when the frontier of Virginia was being guarded against the French and Indians, from the west. This is Fort George and it is reasonably certain that the old Indian chief who lodged a complaint at the council at Easton, Pennsylvania, that a friendly party of Iriquois had been taken prisoner at Marlinton, referred to this fort. He said that they were taken two days journey to another fort, and that means that it was either Fort Dinwiddie on Jacksons River or this Fort George on the Bull Pasture. The old chief said that was in 1755. General Andrew Lewis was in charge of the garrison at Marlins Bottom that year. Before reaching the fort two days journey away, two of the Indians were killed and one taken prisoner, and the rest escaped to take the bad news home.

Before the visit ended Mr. Price asked Colonel McClung, "I have come a long ways to ask you a question. What about Selim, the Algerian."

"You mean Selim, the Algerine?"

POCAHONTAS COUNTY

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" Yes, the Algerine."

" Why they found him out in your county."

And this is the story in substance: About the year 1760, a hunter by the name of Givens, a brother to the famous Col. Givens, was hunting in the wilderness on Elk River and at the famous Big Spring, and he came upon a man hid in a tree top. The man was naked, starving, and all but dead, but he was able to restore him and brought him to the settlements on the Cow Pasture River, some sixty odd miles from the place where he was found. There he was taken in by Col. Dickenson. It is said that he was first taken to the home of Andrew Sitlington. This was Mr. Price's step great, great, great grandfather from whom he got his given name, and he lived on the Greenbrier at that time, having lived at Marlins Bottom, Clover Lick, and Dunmore after moving in from the Cow Pasture settlements.

The captive was a dark skinned man of pleasing appearance but no one could understand his language. After a time he was taken to the Old Stone Church settlement near Staunton and the pastor of that church was the Rev. Mr. Craig, who was a French scholar. When he addressed the stranger in that language, it was understood, and they soon had his story. The fact that the stranger understood the French language indicated that he was a an educated, cultivated man. It appeared that he was a native of Algiers, of the Mohamedan religion. His name was Selim, no doubt derived

POCAHONTAS COUNTY

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from Sultans of that name, Algiers being a Turkish possession down to 1830.

The French and Indian wars having broken out Selim came to America as a French soldier and landed at New Orleans and came up that river and during the course of the campaign was taken prisoner by the Indians and brought to some Indian town in the interior. There was no Indian town at that time within the bounds of West Virginia. The Indians of the middle west were all with the French. There was an outlaw band of Indians at that time on the Ohio River known as Mingoes that were independent. Their town is at Mingo Bottom which is a few miles out of Wheeling. Anyway, he was in some Indian town and might well have been with the Mingoes, for when he escaped, he was found within a few miles of Mingo from whence the Mingoes had moved at or about that time, and the trail must have been well marked.

He said that while he had come from the south, that two women prisoners among the Indians had informed him that the nearest white settlements were to the east, and if these women prisoners were French, Ft. Duquesne at Pittsburgh might have been indicated. He escaped and made his way as far as Elk River where he was found by a hunter in a perishing condition.

Under the ministration of the Rev. Mr. Craig he accepted the Christian religion and remained in the settlements on the Cow Pasture a considerable time.

After a time he left the settlements on the river and

POCAHONTAS COUNTY

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made his way to Richmond where he was made much of by the people of that city, and a little later he was heard of in Philadelphia, where his picture was painted by some great painter. And then he went back to Algiers.

After being gone some years, he came back to Richmond saying that his father had disowned him and disinherited him because he had renounced the Mohamoden faith. He remained in the vicinity of Richmond the rest of his life and is buried in that city.

From a copy of the Pocahontas Times for Sept. 1923

36245

POCAHONTAS COUNTY

LOCATION

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✓ The geographical position of our county is defined from 37 degrees 40 minutes to 38 degrees 45 minutes north Latitude; from 79 degrees 35 minutes, to 80 degrees 24 minutes West Longitude.

Pocahontas is an eastern border county, Allegheny top being the line between Pocahontas and Virginia. From the venter of West Virginia, Pocahontas County is located to the southeast. Among the distinctive features of the north portion of this county is the fact of its being a part of the high region where nearly every river system of the Virginia's find their head springs; The entire county has a great elevation, some of the highest peaks in the state being within its limits. (From Historical Markers of Pocahontas County - State Library.)

LOCATION

✓ Pocahontas is an eastern border county. Pocahontas County, in the Appalachian Highlands was formed in 1821 from parts of Bath, Pendleton and Randolph Counties. (Virginia) and named for Pocahontas, the Indian princess. Pocahontas County is bordered on the south by Greenbrier County and on the west by Nicholas and Fayette and on the north by Webster County. (Blue Book, 1938)

AREA

✓ The area of Pocahontas County is 942.61 square miles. 942.61 x 640 -- 603,270.4
Pocahontas County is the third largest.

TYPE OF LAND

The County has been called the birthplace of rivers. The source of Cheat River flows from the northern part of Pocahontas County also the same applies to the Elk, except that its source is from the western part of the county. The source of Gauley River is also from the western part. The Greenbrier River's source is from the northern part of Pocahontas County. The source of the Tygart River is from the northern part of Pocahontas County. The Williams, Cranberry and Cherry, the

POCAHONTAS COUNTY

-2-

other mentioned rivers have their rise in this county and all flow to the westward.

East Pocahontas is mountainous and in former years heavily timbered with white pine and much other valuable timber, and abounds in iron ores. Central Pocahontas consists largely of limestone lands.

Throught the county there is such an abundance of purest, freshest waters as baggers all ordinary powers of description. Literally it is a land of springs and mountains, beyond the dreams of poetic diction to portray realistically. Some of the streams gushing from the earth, even in midsummer show undimished volume, and with a temperature but little above that of iced water. The entire county is seemingly underlaid with vast reservoirs, whose dimensions puzzle imagination, for from the level land as well as from the mountain sides pour forth great springs, many of them with volume sufficient to propel water mills. Larger streams thus starting from a hillside sometimes disappear only to appear elsewhere from some unexpected opening in the earth. Of this it is believed that Locust Creek furnishes a notable example in the relation to Hills Creek. (W.Va. Atlas)

SOIL

The soil of Pocahontas County is likewise diversified. In some sections the land is thin and in others rugged; but the greater portion is exceedingly fertile, and there cannot be found in this state, or any other state, a locality better adapted to grazing and farming. - (From a Reminiscent History of Northern W. Va.)

TOPOGRAPHY

The county is very mountainous and has a number of mountain peaks reaching 4,500 feet in height, among which may be named Bald Knob, Mace Knob, Gibson Knob, Spruce Knob of Elk, Spruce Knob of Williams River, Barlow Top and Briery Knob.

The Droop Mountain Battlefield, in this county, is the site of the most extensive Civil War battle fought in the state, which occurred NOV. On Mover 6, 1863. It was acquired by the State in 1929, and is now a Battlefield Park. (W.Va. Standard Atlas).

CLIMATE - BLUE BOOK 1938

		AVERAGE TEMPERATURE	
		ANNUAL	
STATION	COUNTY	LENGTH OF RECORD (YRS)	TEMPERATURE
Marlinton	Pocahontas	39 years	48.1 deg.

The average Maximum temperature (annual) is 59.5. The average minimum temperature is 36.4.

The average rainfall 47.26 (forty-seven inches and 26 hundredths. The average number of days .01 inch or more - 121. The average annual Snowfall is 31 in. 6/10 tenths.

HISTORIC MARKERS

From the standpoint of climate, Pocahontas is subject to severe winters and ideal summers. The rainfall averages 47 inches.

Magisterial Districts (4) as follows: Edray, Greenbank, Huntersville, Little Levels.

Incorporated Cities, Towns and Villages:

NAME	POPULATION
Cass, W. Va.	708
Durbin, W. Va.	498
Hillsboro, W. Va.	220
Marlinton, W. Va.	1,586

The history of emigration or migration - Historic Markers, State Library.

County Seat - Marlinton, West Virginia.

First established in 1749 and known as Marlin's Bottom until 1887. Incorporated in 1900. Named for Jacob Marlin, one of the first white settlers to spend a winter in Pocahontas County, the other being Stephen Sewell, Edray, West Virginia. Named after a town in ancient Palestine, meaning a place surrounded. Settled prior to Revolutionary War by Thomas Drinnon. Famous capping place of Indians who broke up the Drinnon home, murdered his wife and carried his son away in captivity beyond the Ohio River. A stopping place mentioned by Bishop Francis Asbury in his journey from Maine to Georgia.

AGRICULTURE

A survey of the agricultural statistics of Pocahontas County reveals that in

1930, there were 1,614 people engaged in farming on 1,201 farms. In 1930 there were 250,824 acres of land in farms in Pocahontas County, which produced crops valued at \$632,283. The value of dairy products were \$44,738, and the value of livestock was estimated at \$1,377,497. (The above was taken from Rand McNally World Atlas, 1939).

Killing frosts early and late made the working of land a precarious source of subsistence until a comparatively recent period in the history of our county. As late as ¹⁶¹⁰ 1610, the fact that corn would ripen at Marlin's Bottom enough to be fit for meal was nearly a year's wonder. Gardens for onions, parsnips, cucumbers, pumpkins, and turnips; patches of buckwheat, corn, beans, and potatoes, for many years comprised the most of pioneer farming enterprise in the way of supplementing their supplies of game and fish. The implements used for clearing and cultivating these gardens and tuck patches were of home manufacture, and for the most part rudely constructed,

(The above was taken from The Historical Markers, State Library, State House.)

According to the Blue Book - 1938, the chief products and leading industries of Pocahontas County were as follows: The leading industry of Pocahontas County is lumber, tannery (sole leather). The chief products are: livestock, potatoes, oats, maple sugar, honey, and poultry.

COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

Very much of Pocahontas County was heavily timbered and as the variety and quality was equal to most and surpassed by no other country in the State, before the vast in-roads were made on these timber resources in the last fifteen or twenty years.

Still there is an enormous supply yet remaining after all has been done by rafts, and loaded freight cars. For twenty years or more an interesting feature was or were the lumber camps here and there in the woods where hundreds of men were comfortably housed and fed on the fat of the land in various parts of the county, mainly east of the Greenbrier. On the higher elevations west of the Greenbrier and in the western

and northwestern part of the county are vast reaches of black spruce forests, now in such demand for wood pulp of which the paper is made of post cards, books, and newspapers. There remains much oak, cherry, poplar, chestnut and the more common forest trees in marked profusion.

The entire county from end to end east of the Greenbrier abounds in iron ore indications, principally the brown hematite and the reddish fossiliferous.

(Above from Historic Markers -

MIGRATION OF PEOPLE

In reference to the ancestry of the people of Pocahontas County, it may be inferred that the citizenship is of a composite character, German, English, Irish, Scotch, and French.

Such names as there, Lightner, Harper, Yeager, Arbogast, Herold, Hatterman, Burr, Siple, Sheets, Casebolt, Shrader, Burner, Sydenstricker, Varner, Heverher, Oakley, Gann, Overholt, indicate German descent, etc.

Indians: There are evidences that the Indians once roamed through the thick forests of what is now our beautiful section of country. Pieces of flint have been found by our citizens which were no doubt used by the Red Race. There was an Indian burial ground on a flat above the road a short distance up the valley from I. B. Moore's dwelling. Indications were to the older people that several Indians had been buried here. It has been said that a few relics were found in later years when some excavations were made.

CRANBERRY GLADES

An intriguing bit of back Country in the Old Mountains of West Virginia which recently has been included in the Monongahela National Forest:

"Here is the botanist's paradise. Here among these mountains are found the 'Cranberry Glades,' a strangely misplaced tract of arctic tundra in the southern mountains. Here you will find a bewildering array of alders, shrubs, grasses and vines, a never-ending source of delight are the two thousand varieties of orchids, which bloom in colorful contrast upon the metallic sheen of the

moss carpet covering the Glades,. West Virginia is the native home of more than sixteen hundred flowering plants.

(Above from Historic Markers - State Library.)

RELIGION

The first Prebyterian Church ever organized within the county was known as the Oak Grove Church in this district in 1793. For thirty-seven years it did not have a pastor, the only preaching being done by ministers who occasionally visited this section. It is believed that the first minister to be located here was Rev. John McCue.

In 1830 this church was organized by Rev. S. L. Graham, and at the time had but nine members, including for deacons, who were Josiah Beard, George Pooge, John Jordan, and S. D. Poage. Rev. Graham continued to be the pastor for 39 years, when he was succeeded by Rev. J. S. Blaine.

In 1833 Mt. Zion Church in "The Hells" was built. It is a log structure, but has been materially repaired and is still used for a house of worship. Previous to the erection of Mt. Vernon Church the people of Upper Knapps Creek attended services at Mt. Zion. Many of them went on horse back across the country by way of the Mill Run at I. B. Moore's.

Mt. Vernon Church was erected in 1856. A noticeable feature of this building is the good quality of the lumber used. Scarcely a defectivexpx spot can be seen in the ceiling. John McElwee and son did the carpenter work. All the lumber was planed by hand at the shop on the land owned by Moses Moore who was a noted Christian character.

Trinity M. E. Church at Frost was dedicated in 1898. The opening prayer was offered by Rev. Wm. T. Price of Marlinton. The dedication sermon was preached by Rev. Neice, of Monroe County. His text was taken from Galations the sixth chapter and second verses: "Bear ye one another burderns and so fulfull the law of Christ." Rev. George Spencer was the pastor in charge of the circuit. Other ministers present were Wm. and E. B. Sharp, both of Frost.

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New Hope Lutheran Church at Minnehaha was built in 1893 through the efforts of Henry White, Sr., and his family who came to Douthard's Creek in 1876. Before building the church they had occasional services by Lutheran pastors in their homes, in nearby churches, and in school houses.

The Westminster Presbyterian Church was building in 1903 and Rev. G. W. Nickell was pastor. In 1923 the first county convention to be held in Huntersville convened here

Mr. Carmel M. E. Church, South, was dedicated October 1, 1905.

Oak Grove Presbyterian Church was organized in the year 1793. The early records of the church were lost and no one remembers when it was built. A substantial brick structure in this sect worshipped for many years was later built southeast of Hillsboro, where the cemetery is still kept up. In 1830 the Church was reorganized.

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One day last week the Shaws, Var defenders, Wares and others killed the big sheep eating bear which has been coming off of Shavers Cheat and killing sheep on Elk. They got him on Mill Run of Staty Fork mountain. His weight was 370 pounds, and fat as a fool; the fat on his rump cut full four inches. This was a big footed bear; the measurements of his paw thirteen inches long by eight broad. It was seen where this bear had killed and dragged three or four head of Norman Shaw's sheep into the woods. Following up, wonder of wonders, a hunter came upon the bear at his feast. The bear raised to his hind legs and the man took a shot with a small bore rifle. Later it was ascertained the bullet plumed the brisket. It apparently did little damage for the bear made off. The dogs then were put after him, but he paid the dogs little mind other than to run. He went by a stander who put him down and out with a bullet from a high power rifle.

This was a bear in his prime. He has been a persistent sheep killer for several years. He made his home in Shavers Cheat, and would come down to Tygarts Valley and the Elk regularly for his mutton. He was known by the unusual size of his track. Ever since this bear came out of his winter's sleep a month ago he has been killing sheep. There is at least one more sheep stealing bear on Elk. This one comes out of Gauley leaves smaller tracks, and has been killing this spring, mostly on Crooked and Old Field Fork of Elk.

Don't be fooled by the fancy put down by popular writers that bears come out lean and poor from their long winter's sleep and fast. That bear killed on Elk last week cut two inches of fat on his ribs. Even though he never went hungry from eating sheep, this is a poor time of year to fatten a beast, and a month is a short time to do it in. That bear went to hole fat December 21 and he came out fat on March 22.

Word comes that the tracks of the old she wolf were seen in the snow last week in the pine patch on Middle Mountain of Elk. The snow was off the hillside and she could not be tracked. They are now guessing she has a den somewhere with pups in it.

The other Sunday night Mrs Green and children of Woodrow, were followed home by a panther. They thought they heard something following them but supposed it was a neighbor's dog, and they paid no mind. Just as they were going into their house, William Vandusen drove by in his automobile, and the lights of his car plainly showed the great cat crouched by the roadside. The vehicle gave a great leap as it made off toward the forest, and it was plainly seen as it crossed the road in the light by Mr Green, who was on the porch.

The next day Fred Galford brought his bear dogs to put on the tracks. However, they do say those bear fighting dogs evidenced but little interest. Mr Galford followed on but the snow had melted too fast.

A distinguished friend writes in from the city to say that my load had gotten too great to bear in my unequal contest with this wolf and panther business and that he was liable to have a friend of his send me a wolf dog. I can only reply that truth is still mighty and will eventually prevail. Also that I place a wolf dog along side of a stable horse and sawmill as a thing undesirable, but for the good of and protection of the country as a whole I would be much obliged for a wolf dog.

Lanty Sharp came off Jericho Road the other day with a tale about a big brown heron like bird with a wide stretch of wing and a voice like the croak of a raven. He said it was working strong on the little piping frogs in the Glade. I knew right off he was talking about a bittern, or brown heron.

Last Wednesday morning if you had happened to look close at the river there was a big flock of wild ducks making their living between the bridge and the mouth of Price Run. There were fifty or more of the little dickens, and they appeared to be having the best time. I presume they were feeding on the superabundance of perrywinkles or fresh water snail which now cover the rocks in this part of Greenbrier River. This black and white (males) wild duck has the local name of butter duck. The books list it as buffle head.

Along about dark and after if you will listen along these low grounds of Knapps Creek and Greenbrier River, you will hear an unseen bird say scape as it flies over. It is a wood cock talking to you. The other evening I was lucky and saw a full dozen against the sky as they flew over me. I heard others which I could not see.

Wm. Crigger was in town from the Beaver Lick fire tower when it rained last Thursday morning, and told a satisfying experience he had enjoyed in his look out the other morning. As he walked up the trail from home he noticed a lot of fresh deer sign, but saw nothing. After he had gotten settled in the tower and all was quiet, an old cock grouse burst out a drumming right below him; just over the ridge in a drain an old wild turkey had to answer with low gobbling. This was the sign for two deer which had hidden when the man approached that they could safely move out, and one made off in one direction and the other went another. All of which goes to prove that a body does not see

everything to be seen when he walks through the woods.

Pocahontas
Chapter 3

370 #

Dec 21 - Tommie 22
slip
"went to hole" for
Rupes

Poshantas-15

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370

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Uncle Bob Gibson was over from Elk on Saturday. He is an humble working churchman, who finds joy in religion and he works at it. He says it is no harm, but rather a good deed, to kill a bear on Sunday, and I hold with him. One reason is a bear kills sheep on Sunday as well as any other day.

Uncle Bob tells me the ramps are just a little the best flavored this season he has ever tasted. One reason, he says, is that the growth is thrifty on account of so much rain and that the lack of sun to tan them has made the bulbs so tender, sweet and mild.

Uncle Bob was counting up the sheep killed in about two weeks by the old Shavers Cheat Mountain big foot bear the other day that they know about, three for him, five for L. D. Sharp and five for Norman Shaw, and one for a widow lady. This bear had killed and piled up five sheep and was eating on them when found. This piling up of sheep is the sign of an old bear.

Uncle Bob said the only thing wrong about killing an old sheep stealing bear on Sunday or any other day is that immediately two other bears sprang spontaneously up to take his place. The reason for this is that when the boss of the range falls, other bears move in where the old big one had heretofore kept them out. The late Henry Gilmer used to tell the tale of killing the same old buck on a given ridge seven years in succession. The explanation was easy—when the monarch of the survey was gone, the good feeding ground was taken by the next buck in line, to hold until he was killed or an abler buck grew up.

The Belled Buzzard

For several years past large numbers of buzzards have assembled each spring in March at the Roost on Jerico Flats, but have been notable by their absence so far this year, except one immense specimen was observed on March 15th. This leader wore a bell which could be heard faintly but distinctly. The bird was not seen again, or any other in the neighborhood, until the 6th of April, when a pair were seen gliding on moveless wings over the mountain.

It is thought possible that the failure of the buzzard to show here in numbers so late in the season is due to the unseasonable cold, or possibly the migrants not having gone far enough south last fall perished of cold and hunger in the unprecedented freezes of the winter, this variety of the vulture family not adapted to extreme cold.

Although of a sluggish nature, unlike the nobler birds of prey, and subsisting on carrion, the buzzard scrupulously exercises its flight power morning and evening in prolonged circling, instinctively knowing that if it lost the ability to fly its species would soon perish.

It is said that the Wright Brothers and other inventors of gliding air machines, studied attentively the flight of the buzzard, which is said not to be excelled by any other bird of land or sea.

—Resident, France
4/25/40

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THE FAIR - AUG 19 TO 24

WHAT IS THE POCAHONTAS COUNTY FAIR?

The Fair is a graphic method of portraying what has been accomplished by the various agencies operating in Pocahontas County. It is a moving picture of the routine activities of our citizens and is made to show something of our industries, our occupations, and our social organizations—a representation of Pocahontas County people at work and play.

The Fair aims at the improvement of the County. Exhibitors and visitors from a distance bring advanced ideas and methods; our own citizens, by associating with each other and comparing exhibits are enabled to choose the best and to formulate plans for the improvement of the community, the farm, the home, the church and the school.

The Fair seeks to advertise Pocahontas County, not by overdrawing, but by giving strangers an opportunity to become acquainted with the county and its people.

The Fair registers changes. Instead of the great areas of worthless cutover lands which occupied so much of the county a few years ago, we have extensive parks at Seneca, Watoga and Droop Mountain. There is the National Forestry Service with a camp at Thornwood. The State Fish Hatchery on Stony Creek, three miles from the Fairgrounds, furnishes a supply of trout for the streams. The parks and National Forests are game refuges, insuring an abundant stock of wild game for our woods. These State and Federal agencies so recently come to Pocahontas, have entered wholeheartedly into the plans for the improvement of the county and are actively represented at the Fair.

Farm improvement in Pocahontas has been phenomenal. Those who saw the exhibits of livestock and farm crops at our early Fairs will note this improvement when they examine the exhibits this year. The Fair is one of the agencies responsible for these marked gains in potato development, methods of marketing and in quality of livestock and farm crops.

Public education is deemed an essential element of progress hence the schools have always held a place in the Pocahontas County Fair. The public school building, erected by the schools of the county, houses an educational exhibit that is unique in its quality and completeness. That education has been long nurtured by this mountain people is evidenced by the fact that among the first pioneers to die at the hands of Redmen in what is now Pocahontas County was a school teacher, slain on the river's bank, just above the cattle barn, and but a few rods outside the Fairgrounds.

The Fair is the Home Coming Season for Pocahontas. It is a time when we welcome back our friends and relatives. The automobile and our modern system of highways have aided in making Home Coming one of the most enjoyable features of our Fair.

And talking about pictures! No picture is complete without its frame. The setting of the Pocahontas County Fair is in keeping with its high aims. The site is that of old Fort Drinnen where the advancing pioneers from east of the mountains met with the Shawnees and Iroquois. Its beautiful meadow lands lie by the historic Greenbrier; it is rimmed around by the forest clad hills and overlooked by the towering ranges of the western Alleghenies.

L. S. Gelger of Stony Bottom, brings in a bunch of potato seed pods. These potato berries are the first Mr Gelger ever saw; they are no new things to me, though we do not see them now as often as we used to years ago. There are quite a number of plants in Mr Gelger's patch of an acre and a quarter producing seed this year. The patch was planted in Irish cobbles, certified seed, and carefully sprayed. It is Mr Gelger's intention to cultivate some of the seed in the potato berries, and see what comes of it. You are liable to get most anything in the way of potato berries, and see what comes of it. You are liable to get most anything in the way of potatoes from the little seeds—mostly something no account. You plant the seeds in a pot in the fall and grow the plants in the house during the winter. The plants have each a tuber about the size of a pea, of most any shape and skin color. Pick out the small potatoes you think give promise of amounting to something and plant them out in the ground next spring. The scientific plant breeders at experimental stations are continually trying out potatoes to seed. They do not go it blind, for they know what is needed in the way of strains of high quality potatoes of heavy yield with resistance to diseases. Their aim is to continue in one the good points of several varieties. They begin at the beginning by crossing two tried and true varieties by hand pollination. Thousands of the resulting plants are selected right off, and many more fall by the wayside

in the rigid trying out process through the years of trial.

Speaking about potatoes, some weeks ago there was a note in this paper about potatoes persisting in a field many years between cultivations. Now, Warwick Ratliff comes forward with the news that he has potato plants persisting in a field for eighteen seasons. This year he is again cultivating the ground, and he has marked and fertilized the volunteers. He will report later as to yield.

Pocahontas - 15

Pocahontas Times

7/25/40

GRAIN AND POTATO SHOW

The 1940 Grain and Potato Show for Pocahontas County held at Marlinton last Saturday was one of the largest and best in a long series. This annual event is sponsored by the Bank of Marlinton and the First National Bank, with J. A. Sydenstricker and A. H. McFerrin actively in charge as the committee of the Banker Farmer Association.

While there may be more entries in the potato classes, the entries were never before quite so good. This was also true of the small grain classes. The corn entries were numerous and the quality was excellent, though this rainy season has not been considered the best of corn years.

The farmers who have taken interest in this annual exhibit through the years have not only brought up

the quality and increased the yield of their crops through better farm practice, but they have perfected themselves in the art of preparing exhibits to show in the various classes.

There was a largely attended farmer's institute in connection with the Grain and Potato Show. The subject was sheep, and what could be done to bring back and excel the grade of lambs produced twenty years ago. In other lines of husbandry our farmers have gone up and onward; the quality of lambs produced has steadily gone down and backward. Among the speakers were Dr. C. W. Wilson, of the University, Milton Dille, of Pendleton county, and Moffett Williams, of Marlinton.

These expert, successful sheep men agreed on the four cardinal points of breed, feed, shelter and parasites; these four and the greatest of these is food.

Now the fact was evident that those progressive farmers who were in attendance at the institute Saturday are producers of good quality lambs, and know from experience much what the experts were telling us. The value lies in the fact that they will be encouraged by the meeting to be disciples to influence short sighted neighbors from breeding from cull ewe lambs; from attempting to economize by short rations, and exposure to weather and parasites.

The big money crop of this Pocahontas County is sheep, and while years ago our lambs were tops and in demand, the quality has been allowed to go down grade so much the packers are complaining bitterly. They complain about lambs which are so big as to pass the bloom stage before marketing, and lambs so puny and small they never reach the bloom stage for best marketing and eating.

Anyway the Banker-Farmer Association, under the direction of John Sydenstricker and Hanley McFerrin, have set out to do for our main industry, sheep raising, what has been accomplished by the annual exhibit for grain, grass and potatoes, and this editor is volunteering to help all he can. Go and do thou likewise.

Pocahontas Times
11/14/40

Pocahontas - 14

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Pocahontas Times
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Pocahontas - 11

Pubishes Book Of Verse

"The Versatile Mind" will be the title of the new volume of poetry to be published by the New York Publishing Service for Mrs Charlotte Mason Dickson of Second Creek. The contract for the publication was signed Tuesday. Mrs Dickson has written poetry for various papers and magazines, such as the West Virginia Review. She is the wife of Edgar F. Dickson. --Monroe Watchman.

— Pocahontas Times

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CALVIN W. PRICE, EDITOR

THURSDAY JANUARY 30, 1941

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Every once in a while a letter comes, asking me to write what I know about the origin of local names in these mountains. If copy is scarce, I have no more sense than to attempt it.

Away up beyond the head of the Greenbrier River, is Gandy Creek, flowing to the north. This is a family name, from Uriah Gandy. Some time in the 1790's there was a court order by the then new county of Randolph directing Uriah Gandy to cut out the road toward Seneca.

Well, Seneca is Indian and I have been told it means the people who live in the shadow of the rock. I have also been told the word means dark or black. I know no better than to accept both interpretations, being as shadow and dark can have some what similar meaning. They also tell me there are a hundred ways to spell Seneca, and that all of them are right. Finally, my brethren seem to have taken the Greek way of spelling the word, and that is all right by me.

We have the Seneca Trail, known of old as the War Road or War Path, stretching from Seneca Lakes in New York to North Georgia. Federal Road Route 219 follows this ancient main north and south highway; proof of the Indian's knowledge of the lay of the land as well as the modern engineers.

The Senecas were the standing army of the Five Civilized Nations; later to be added to the Confederacy to make the Six Nations. They were the keepers of the great back door; I have heard it called the great black door. Anyway, this back door country was largely West Virginia. The Senecas held it against the Shawnees of the west and the Chickasaws of the south.

Speaking about names, when a young brave of the Five Nations wished to prove his prowess at arms he joined the Senecas—look the War path. I remember Chopper is the Senecan for road; the Leather Stocking Trail, I believe, about the Senecas and the trail is most interesting writing.

Seneca Creek, in the adjoining county of Pendleton, joins the North Fork of the South Branch in the shadow of the great stone of West Virginia, the Seneca Rocks. It is not a sparkling proposition to put forward the surmise that the Seneca tribe of Indians eventually evolved from the little local tribe which maintained its small communal village at the forks or the waters in the shadow of the great Seneca Rocks, for no one can prove it wrong.

We are in the Appalachian Mountains, and they tell me this too is Indian, meaning Endless Mountains. I always think of our mountains being endless east and west from the Ohio to Piedmont, Virginia, but I expect our Indian predecessors were talking about north and south from the Mississippi and Labrador.

Over on the Tygrats Valley there is Laurel Mountain between Elkins and Belington. A scholar wise in Indian lore once told me the original name for this mountain was not Laurel at all, but an Indian word meaning middle, possibly spelled something like Laura. The application to the mountain is that this height of land has the greatest elevation of any ridge between the near Alleghenies on the east and the far away Ozarks in the west.

And now, of course, the Allegheny word must be considered. They say it is Indian and means the big sign or big track or big mountain. I have heard that Allegheny is a good Scandinavian word. Somewhere I think I saw the statement that Alleghenian, or something like that is the name of a leading paper over in Sweden. If this be so, maybe it is just another storm to bolster the contention that the Scandinavian settlers of America a thousand years ago were absorbed by and left imprint upon the northern Indians.

Tygrats Valley was named from David Tygart, who came to the valley in the 1750's; left when the Flies and other families were massacred.

Mingo is the name of the Indian village "at the head of the Ohio." The Mingoes were here at the time of Braddock's defeat in 1755. The Six Nations were allies of the British; the Mingoes were blamed with siding with the French. In 1766, they had been moved from Mingo Flats to Mingo Bottoms, near Wheeling. About 1800 they were moved to the Muskingum River in Ohio. In 1838, the Mingoes traded their Ohio land to the government for lands in Kansas. Later they moved to Indian Territory, now Oklahoma. In 1766 there was about fifty families of the Mingoes; the last I heard, some years since, there were over sixty families.

About the time the Mingoes moved from near Wheeling to the head of the Muskingum, there appeared all of a sudden one day in the Green bank community several hundred Indians, men, women and children. They with many horses and dogs. They said they were back from a season of hunting in the ancestral hunting grounds.

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Shavers Mountain and Shavers Fork of Cheat River and Shavers Run are all named for Peter Shaver, a soldier of the American Revolution, who was killed by Indians at his home on Tygrats Valley, River along about the year 1781.

Cheat River is any body's guess how come its name. There is false wheat, cheat, still to be found along its course. On Shavers Mountain, the moss covered stock rock still fool you by letting you suddenly down into pits covered by moss. It is still a surprise to the traveler to climb a couple thousand feet up from Greenbrier River to find another on the top of the mountain, flowing in the opposite direction. Some where I saw the name Cheatnah. This the name of a mountain down Alabama way in the original Cherokee country. I have often wondered about these somewhat similar names so many hundred miles apart, but I never took the steps to check up on the matter through the experts in the Bureau of Ethnology down in Washington.

The Greenbrier was first named Ronceverte by the French explorers. It appears that Ronce is brier and verte is green. The greenbriers still persists in thickets the length of this stream. I have always had an interest to know the names the French gave to the mountains and streams of this region which they claimed as a part of their New France. The ford in the Greenbrier near the present city of Ronceverte was called St Lawrence. An order entered by the County Court of Greenbrier in the 1780's deals with a road from Town to the St Lawrence Ford.

Speaking about French names naturally brings to mind Gauley River and Gauley Mountain. What would be more natural for French explorers to call this beautiful stream Gaule after the ancient name of France. Of course I have heard about the Scotch Irish pioneer hunter coming out on the rocky bluff above mouth of Meadow River and in his surprise at seeing a stream of such size, exclaiming, "Golly, what a river!" You know that sounds so much like so many of my own explanations of things I have no knowledge of, that I never put any faith in the tale.

Pocahontas

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Pocahontas

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Up on the Alleghenies, a visitor took a shot at a passing buck. He held too far back, and the deer went on with a bullet hole through his broad basket.

Up in Pennsylvania this week they are killing deer by the tens of thousands. Once and for all.

is certainly Indian; from that name is preserved up New York State.

Watoga is Cherokee. They say it means starry waters—the reflection of the stars in a limpid stream.

Cherry River is from the abundance of wild cherry trees on it, particularly at Cherry Tree Bottom, the present site of the city of Richwood.

Cranberry River is named from the abundance of wild cranberries growing in the bogs on the Glades on South Fork.

Charles mountain probably named after Charles Kennison, early settler, soldier of the Revolution and Indian fighter.

Days Run and Days Mountain from Charles Day, early settler and Indian fighter. One of the names for the fort at Millpoint was Days Fort.

As for Williams River, there is tradition that it was named after William Ewing, soldier of the Revolution; known as Swago Bill. He lived on lands now embraced in the McClintic farms. He owned land on Williams River; the Nelson Moore lands. I think when he moved to Ohio in 1810, he sold his Williams River holdings for a rifle gun and a certain amount in "cut money." It appears that in the early days if change was needed to divide a half dollar and there were no quarters convenient, why the ever efficient settlers took the ever ready axe and cut the half dollar in two.

Knapps Creek was first Ewing Creek. John Ewing owned lands below Frost which he sold to Moses Moore. When the Marlinton Bottom survey was made for the Greenbrier Company of Colonel Lewis in 1751, the calls of the line from the low place on the mountain, near what is now Stillwell, to a corner near the present Mt View Cemetery, passed over the Ewing house. Later the stream was called Naps Creek, after Nathaniel Gregory, who was murdered in his hunting camp somewhere around the present site of Westminster church.

Thomas Mountain and Peters Mountain, I have no record of how they were named. I do know that Michael Mountain bears the name of Michael Daugherty. He was a gentle man from Ireland, who left his home with his lady love, rather than continue his studies for the priesthood. He was a sportsman who walked in to kill his bears with a hunting knife while his dogs were attracting the attention of the game. One sad day on Michael Mountain poor Michael walked in on too big a bear. As the hunter struck his knife home the big brute struck back with a mighty paw. There was then a dead man as well as a dead bear. It has been Michael Mountain ever since.

Mad Tom on the Allegheny is a ridge on which a poor slave boy got lost and went crazy.

The Mad Sheep on the Allegheny was called for sheep which were afflicted with rabies one season long ago.

Stephen Hole Run is called for Stephen Sewell, whom Colonel Andrew Lewis found at Marlins Bottom, now Marlinton, in 1751, with Jacob Marlinton. Sewell spent a winter soon after in the small cave at the head of the run. He was killed by Indians some years later on Big Sewell Mountain, farther down the Greenbrier. I do not remember ever being told where Sewell was killed.

I have never been in Stephens Hole. It is of such small bore I fit into it most too snugly for comfort. The story is the paymaster of a certain Ohio regiment stole the payroll when here for the Battle of Droop Mountain, and hid the money in Stephens Hole. I had heard the tale and paid little attention to it. Some years ago I read Claude Bowers' book, The Tragic Era. In writing up the carpetbag governor of a certain southern state, the writer says the said governor had been accused of absconding with the payroll of a certain Ohio regiment.

Elk River, Elk Mountain, Deer

Creek, Panther Run, Bear Run, Wild Cat Hollow, are self explanatory names; the same as Spruce Knob, Sugar (Tree) Creek, Span Oak, White Oak, Laurel Creek, Laurel Run, Poplar Flats, Red Oak Flat, Spruce Flat, Brush Run, Pine Grove, etc.

The water of Tea Creek is the color of weak tea. The idea for years was this color was from leaves and roots of the trees—particularly spruce and hemlock. The geologists now tell us the sulphur in the coal deposits is chemical which gives color to the water. Red Creek and the several Red Runs have their sources up in the coal measures.

Back in the Gauley wilderness, you find names like John Fox writes about down in the Cumberlands. Big Blizzard, Little Blizzard, Big Rough, Little Rough, Fox Tree, Barren She, Tear Coat, Hateful, Hellward, Hell for Sartin, Skin Shin, Turkey Track, Camp Rock, Little Elbow, Middle Fork, Three Forks, Skinned Poplar, Hoses Path, Bug Run are some that I recall off hand. We got these honest and natural by reason of the Hammons family moving into the big wilderness almost a century ago and staying there.

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12, 1940

Last week was the big week of the year in Pocahontas County. The visitors came here by the thousands for the deer hunting. On an average, I would say, about one in twenty got a buck.

Practically every one of the visitors knew where they were going. They or their friends have been coming here for years, and they had camps or farm houses or hotels already picked to stay in; friends to go into the woods with, and familiar ground to hunt in.

I count that twenty dollars is about as little as one man can expect to get by with in the way of expense on a three day hunt away from home. This means the circulating of really a large sum of new money in this county—say thirty to forty thousand dollars. Whatever it is, the hundred or so deer the visiting hunters carried away sold for big money. This money was divided by farmers, hotel keepers, stores, gas stations, and what not.

A friend of mine from the lower waters of the Greenbrier has been coming here for the past five years. Every season he has seen deer but no bucks. This year the big deer of the mountain came by him, with antlers like a rocking chair. Hope long deferred made him nervous or something. The shot drew blood, but the deer went away from that place. It is just another case of hoping him better luck next time.

It was the last drive of the second day. Some standers had bunched around a fire for the wind was raw. There was too much talk and too little attention to the business in hand. A man from the city looked around and bellowed "Great day, look there!" This was all the signal the big buck needed to high ball the jack away from that place. Of course a dozen bullets cut through the brush where the deer had been, but every one of these too late lead messengers were ineffective.

Upon the Alleghenies, a visitor took a shot at a passing buck. He held too far back, and the deer went on with a bullet hole through his bread basket. The stranger was no hand at tracking, so Attorney J. E. Buckley was called in on the case. He followed the sign as fast as he could walk by an occasional blood smear on the brush. After a while the deer broke out again, but the cover was too thick to see for a shot. Following on a ways, Mr. Buckley knew the proper thing to do was to look up the exact place the deer had broken out the last time. If it was merely a superficial wound the deer would have been standing, and there would be little use to trail farther. If he had been severely hit, he would have lain down and that would be encouragement to keep on hunting. Getting near the place, Mr. Buckley saw the deer behind some brush, looking out at him. It had circled and come back. Every hair was turned the wrong way and the animal was the very picture of rage and fury. He would have fought before he ran this time. One well placed shot put the deer down and out. He carried a magnificent head.

Adam Pennell, of Marlinton, is a lone wolf when it comes to hunting. He ranges the Buckley Mountain. On Tuesday, he got as far as the Messer place, to look up a big deer he knew had been keeping there all summer. Over on the Cummings Creek side he put up his deer. I noted three big holes in that deer's hide from well placed punkin balls out of a shot gun. It was quite a chore for one man to bring this 175 pound buck the five miles into home. The antlers, while not overly large, were symmetrical and uniform, carrying four points to the beam.

Miss Genevieve Yeager was the lady to get her deer in Pocahontas County this year. It was an eight pointer, four snags to the beam. She hunted with the Ruckmans on Alleghany Mountain.

No accidents from fire arms are reported in Pocahontas County this year. This is a blessing for which we all are deeply grateful. One hunter, Gordon Sanford, of Rainelle, was struck by a train near Cloverlick, and died some hours later from the injuries.

Up in Pennsylvania this week they are killing deer by the tens of thousands. Does and bucks with branched antlers are legal game this season. Spike bucks and fawns are on the protected list. Up there the deer are eating themselves out of house and home: the range is no longer sufficient to keep the stock of deer. At the rate deer are now increasing in West Virginia, the time will come when the range will not support the deer. This is a good many years ahead on account of the present number of our deer and the richness of our range. When that time does come, the Conservation people have considered the means to meet the situation. The season will be opened on does, and the season will be earlier and longer. Just now, they hold us to a late season to allow time for mating before butchering the bucks.

A tale comes out of the deer woods of a party of hunters having considerable of a scramble in a laurel patch. They went to look and came on a big wild cat with a four snag, eight point buck deer down and biting on his neck. They shot the lynx and another bullet put the deer out of his misery.

I hear tell of a hunter killing a muley or dehorned buck. For antlers, there were nubs, an inch or so long. He brought his venison in for checking and it made trouble. The law has specifications calling for branched antlers. Naturally, the question arises in my suspicious mind how come the hunter to know he was shooting at a buck in the first place.

Down on Pyles Mountain a hunter on the first day crossed no less than a dozen big buck tracks, all heading

toward the game sanctuary, which is the Watoga State Park.

The big deer of the State fell to the gun of H. J. Widney, of Frank. He killed it on Shavers Cheat, near Wildell. The weight was three hundred and fifty pounds, hog dressed. The antlers were a wonderful rack. Nine points on one beam and ten on the other.

Most anything can come out of these woods. Witness, the nineteen point antlers which are the trophy of young Mr. Widney, of Frank. Along about fifty years ago the late Brown Gafford, of Back Alleghany shot a deer at the Deadwater of Williams River, which also carried a head of twenty points, not counting the little nubs usually found at the base of the beams.

THE POCAHONTAS TIMES

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CALVIN W. PRICE, EDITOR

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12, 1940

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The kill of bucks in Seneca Forest was considerably off from former season. Eighteen was the number; less than half of last year. The number of hunters checked in was over 600 for the first day; over 500 for the second day and over 300 for the third—about 1500 in all. This compares with over 900 for the first day last year. I say there is safety for the deer in numbers. I am always wanting to strike an average. This is about one deer to every one hundred hunters. On the outside of the Seneca State Forest the average was as usual one deer to about forty hunters.

It sounds like a lie to me, but the tale comes out of the woods, that a visitor came on to a native standing at a likely crossing place for deer. The usual inquiry was made about seeing deer. The stander had a fancy, exciting tale about a powerful big buck coming through, at easy range; he took a couple of shots and never cut a hair. While the narrator was in the midst of his eloquent recounting of his bad luck, the drivers came up. They took the man's word for it and proceeded to cut off his shirt tail. Then they looked for sign. There had not been a big deer through that crossing in a week.

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Timber Wolf

It can now be stated definitely that the varment which has been killing sheep by wholesale on Elk is a timber wolf. On Monday about forty men and a big pack of dogs went hunting for the varment on Middle Mountain. They routed him out and he struck out for Gauley Mountain. Howard Beale was waiting at the place the varmint had crossed Elk River in former chases. The animal came in full view of Mr Beale and he took three or four shots at it with a shot gun at long range. He drew blood but failed to knock it down. It went back to Middle Mountain and the dogs were not able to route it out again.

This wolf is a big able animal. with a bushy tail, curled at the end. It is gray in color, and looks as though it might weigh as much as a hundred pounds.

The question now is where this wolf came from. The last timber wolf in this region was killed by Stopher Hamrick forty years ago.

For over a year the wolf has been raiding the sheep flocks on Big Spring and Dry Branch of Elk. More than two hundred head of sheep has it killed. The last kill was on Saturday night out of L. D. Sharp's flock on the railroad near Slaty Fork.

✓

100
40 yrs. ago
200 sheep

- P. C. H. H. H. H. H.